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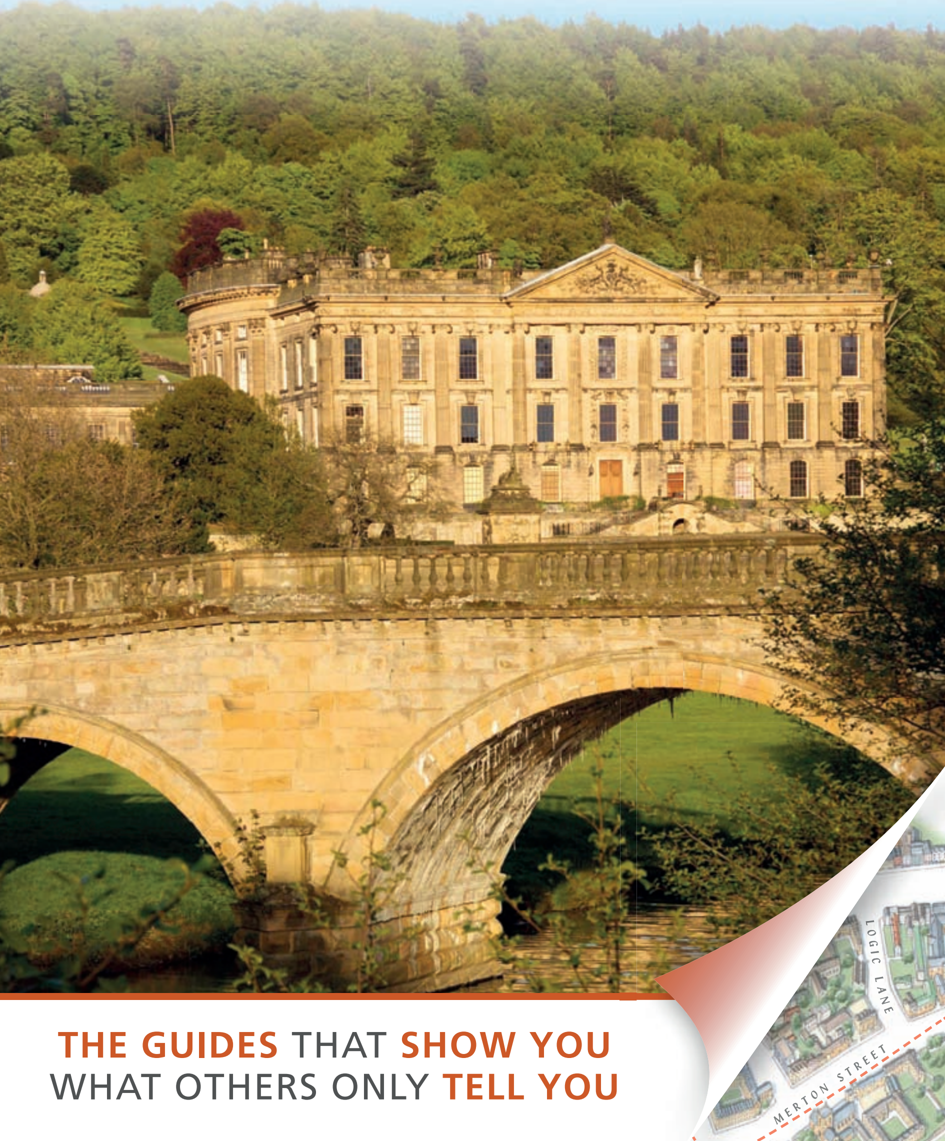
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GREAT BRITAIN

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◁ **Cricket, England’s national game**

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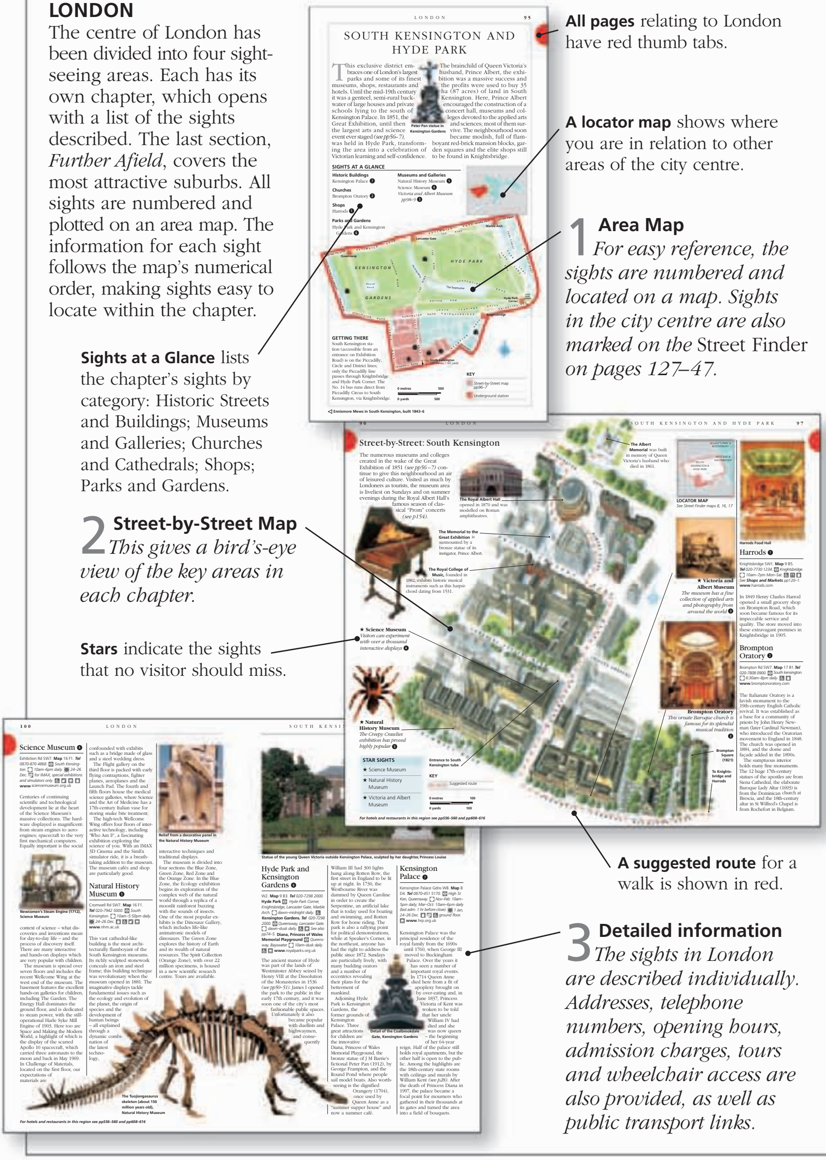
HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide helps you to get the most from your holidays in Great Britain. It provides both detailed practical information and expert recommendations. *Introducing Great Britain* maps the country and sets it in its historical and cultural context. The six regional chapters, plus *London*, describe important sights, using maps, pictures and illustrations. Features cover topics from houses and famous gardens to sport. Hotel, restaurant, and pub recommendations can be found in *Travellers' Needs*. The *Survival Guide* has practical information on everything from transport to personal safety.

LONDON

The centre of London has been divided into four sightseeing areas. Each has its own chapter, which opens with a list of the sights described. The last section, *Further Afield*, covers the most attractive suburbs. All sights are numbered and plotted on an area map. The information for each sight follows the map's numerical order, making sights easy to locate within the chapter.



All pages relating to London have red thumb tabs.

A locator map shows where you are in relation to other areas of the city centre.

1 Area Map

For easy reference, the sights are numbered and located on a map. Sights in the city centre are also marked on the Street Finder *on pages 127–47.*

Sights at a Glance lists the chapter's sights by category: Historic Streets and Buildings; Museums and Galleries; Churches and Cathedrals; Shops; Parks and Gardens.

2 Street-by-Street Map

This gives a bird's-eye view of the key areas in each chapter.

Stars indicate the sights that no visitor should miss.

A suggested route for a walk is shown in red.

3 Detailed information

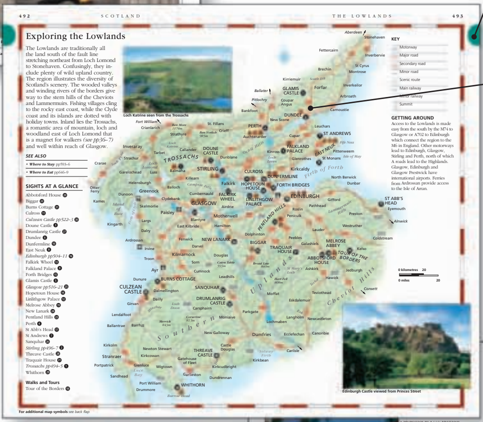
The sights in London are described individually. Addresses, telephone numbers, opening hours, admission charges, tours and wheelchair access are also provided, as well as public transport links.

GREAT BRITAIN AREA BY AREA

Apart from London, Great Britain has been divided into 14 regions, each of which has a separate chapter. The most interesting towns and places to visit have been numbered on a *Regional Map.*

1 **Introduction**
The landscape, history and character of each region is outlined here, showing how the area has developed over the centuries and what it has to offer the visitor today.

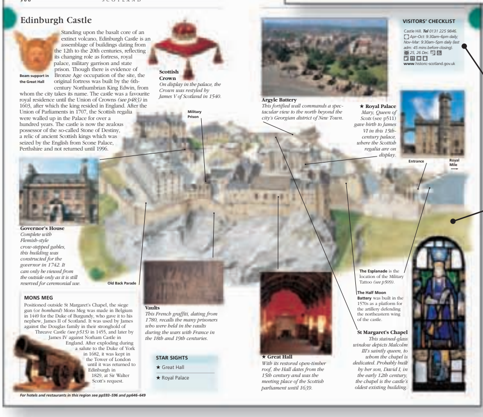
Each area of Great Britain can be identified quickly by its colour coding, shown on the inside front cover.



2 **Regional Map**
This shows the main road network and gives an illustrated overview of the whole region. All entries are numbered and there are also useful tips on getting around the region by car, train and other forms of transport.

3 **Detailed information**
All the important sights, towns and other places to visit are described individually. They are listed in order, following the numbering on the Regional Map. *Within each entry, there is detailed information on important buildings and other sights.*

Story boxes explore related topics.



For all the top sights, a Visitors' Checklist provides the practical information you need to plan your visit.

4 **The top sights**
These are given one or more full pages. Three-dimensional illustrations reveal the interiors of historic buildings. Interesting town and city centres are given street-by-street maps, featuring individual sights.

INTRODUCING GREAT BRITAIN

DISCOVERING GREAT BRITAIN 10–13
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DISCOVERING GREAT BRITAIN

Each one of Great Britain's counties, that have grown out of kingdoms, principalities, shires, fiefs, boroughs, and parishes, has its own special flavour. This derives from Britain's landscape, its resources and its history, all of which have shaped its peoples, too.

Queen's Life Guard on Parade

There has always been something of a divide between the industrial North and the wealthier South. Regional pride is very strong. Vernacular architecture marks each region, and there is a rich variety of scenery to be found in every corner of this green and bounteous island.

A view of Big Ben and the London Eye

LONDON

- **A ride on the London Eye**
- **Majestic parks**
- **World-class museums**

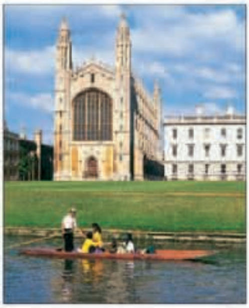
Britain's capital can be enjoyed in all weathers. So many buildings, from **Big Ben** *(see p77)* to the **Tower of London** *(see pp118–19)*, are emblematic of the city. To get an overview take a bus riverboat or the **London Eye** *(see p81)*; visit the West End for the most exciting shops, or stroll through its lovely parks. The **National Gallery** *(see p82–3)* is one of the finest art museums in the world, the **British Museum** *(see pp106–7)* and **Victoria and Albert Museum** *(see pp98–9)* are storehouses of treasures while **Tate Modern** *(see 121)* has set a standard for contemporary art.

THE DOWNS AND CHANNEL COAST

- **Great days out from London**
- **Fairytale castles**
- **Brighton's brilliant sea front**

This is "The Garden of England", green and rural, with rolling Downs. Many places in this corner of the country are accessible on a day trip from London; **Hampton Court** *(see p173)* and **Leeds Castle** *(see p189)* are favourite excursions. Many estates have connections with great figures from history: Winston Churchill's **Chartwell** *(see p188)*, Queen Victoria's **Osborne** *(see p168)* on the Isle of Wight and J.M.W. Turner's **Petworth** *(see p172)*, an antiques-hunters' paradise. Ancient cathedrals rise from **Chichester** *(see pp171)*, **Winchester** *(see pp170–1)* and **Canterbury** *(see pp186–7)*, which has many tales to tell. Breezy resorts dot the coast. The liveliest is **Brighton** *(see pp174–9)*, known as "London-on-Sea", with its famous Lanes, Palace Pier and seafront promenade.

The promenade and Palace Pier, Brighton, Sussex



Punting on the River Cam past King's College Chapel, Cambridge

EAST ANGLIA

- **A punt in Cambridge**
- **Magnificent Ely Cathedral**
- **A day at the races**

This part of the country grew wealthy on the wool trade and its merchants built fabulous half-timbered houses and pretty towns such as **Lavenham** *(see p206)*. In the charming university town of Cambridge *(see p210–15)* try

◁ ***Salisbury Cathedral: from the meadows*** **by John Constable (1776–1837)** punting on the Backs with the students or, for a less vigourous outing, admire **King's College Chapel** *(see p212–13)*. For another cultural high, visit **Ely Cathedral** *(see pp194–5)*. Spend a day at the races at **Newmarket** *(see p207)*, or visit **Aldeburgh** *(see pp202–203)* during its prestigious annual music festival. The ports on the lovely coast provide seafood for your table.

THAMES VALLEY

- **Attractive riverside pubs**
- **Oxford's dreaming spires**
- **Imposing Blenheim Palace**

The River Thames has long been a pleasure ground. The riverside, from London's outer suburbs to **Windsor** *(see pp235–7)*, **Oxford** *(see pp222–7)* and beyond, has many appealing waterside pubs and restaurants located in attractive towns. Boats can be hired, and the annual rowing regatta at **Henley-on-Thames** *(see p63 and p66)* is the height of the summer season. No wonder that the song of Britain's most exclusive private school, Eton *(see p235)*, which is located by the river, is *The Eton Boating Song*. **Windsor Castle** *(see pp236–7)* is undoubtedly a main draw, easily reached in a day trip from London, as are the beautiful colleges of **Oxford University** *(see pp226–7)*. Not far away are other historic places to visit, including the Churchill family home at **Blenheim Palace** *(see pp228–9)*, the Duke of Bedford's **Woburn Abbey** *(see p230)* and **Stowe** *(see p230)*, which has one of the most magnificent gardens in England.

A view of Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire

Stonehenge, Wiltshire, Great Britain's famous prehistoric monument

WESSEX

- **Mysterious Stonehenge**
- **Cheddar cheese and Taunton Cider**
- **Fine architecture in Bath and Salisbury**

The former kingdom of the West Saxons echoes with history and legends. Here are some of the most important Neolithic sites in the country, including the mysterious and magnificent **Stonehenge** *(see pp262–3)*. This is the country of good living, with Cheddar cheese from around the Cheddar Gorge, and Somerset cider. The Georgian spa town of **Bath** *(see pp258–61)* makes an excellent centre to explore the region. There are two coasts – in the north on the Bristol Channel and in the south on the English channel where **Poole** *(see pp270–1)* is a great yachting centre. Bath, **Wells** *(see pp252–3)* and **Salisbury** *(see pp264–5)* all have outstanding cathedrals. There are wild animals at **Longleat** *(see p266)*, wild landscapes on **Exmoor National Park** *(see pp250–1)*, while the **Glastonbury** *(see pp253)* music festival attracts fans in their thousands.

DEVON AND CORNWALL

- **Surfing fit for champions**
- **Seafood and cream teas**
- **Fabulous gardens**

Britain's best beaches are in the West Country, some of which have high cliffs and waves worthy of champion surfers. Its fishing villages have long attracted artists, in particular St Ives, where the **Tate St Ives** gallery *(see p277)* can be visited. Seafood is plentiful, and rich pasture-lands brings dairy ice-cream and cream teas. Seafaring is a way of life, as the **National Maritime Museum Cornwall** *(see pp280–1)* in Falmouth attests. **Bodmin Moor** *(see pp284–5)* and **Dartmoor** *(see p81)* present an untamed wilderness but some fine gardens are here, too, including the **Eden Project** *(see pp282–3)*.

Eden Project, Cornwall, a garden for the 21st century

THE HEART OF ENGLAND

- **Shakespeare's birthplace**
- **Typically English Cotswold villages**
- **Half-timbered border towns**

There is a great mix of attractions in this region where the Industrial Revolution began *(see pp314–15)*. The most popular sites are **Warwick Castle** *(see pp322–3)* and Shakespeare's birthplace in **Stratford-upon-Avon** *(see pp324–5)*. Cotswold villages built of golden limestone are quintessentially English. Other lovely rural spots include the Malvern Hills and the Wye Vallley. Attractive architecture distinguishes the half-timbered Welsh border towns including the city of **Chester** *(see pp310–11)*.

Anne Hathaway's cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

EAST MIDLANDS

- **Chatsworth, a fine country house**
- **Great walking in the Peak District**
- **Buxton spa and opera house**

One of the most impressive country houses, **Chatsworth** *(see pp334–5)*, is a high spot of this region. It sits at the edge of the **Peak District** *(see pp338–9)*, a popular area for walking. There are several attractive towns such as **Buxton** *(see p334)*, a spa town with an opera house while **Lincoln** *(see pp340–1)* has medieval buildings and a fine cathedral.

Mist on Rydal Water, Lake District, Cumbria

LANCASHIRE AND THE LAKES

- **England at its most picturesque**
- **Liverpool, maritime city of Empire**
- **Manchester, capital of the North**

The **Lake District** *(see pp352–68)* is where walking as an activity rather than a chore began, and you will see why when you encounter the stunning scenery of fells and lakes. Serious walkers put on their waterproofs and boots, while Sunday strollers hire row boats, or look in at Dove Cottage, where the poets William and Dorothy Wordsworth lived. To the south is **Liverpool** *(see pp354–5)*, a Unesco World Heritage city, with wonderful architecture and great art galleries. **Blackpool** *(see p371)* is the main resort, known for its illuminations. Inland is **Manchester** *(see pp372–5)* England's second largest city.

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER REGION

- **Haunting abbey ruins**
- **The Brontë sisters' dramatic moors**
- **The ancient city of York**

Yorkshire is known for its striking moors, which the literary Brontë sisters of **Haworth** *(see p412)* knew so well. It is also known for its great abbeys, such as **Fountains** *(see pp390–1)*, **Rievaulx** *(see p393)* and **Whitby** *(see p396)*, which were reduced to haunting ruins after the English church broke from Rome. **York Minster** *(see pp406–407)* remains the most important church in the north and the ancient town is worth exploring. Sculptures by Henry Moore grace **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** *(see p413)*.

Whitby harbour and St Mary's Church, Yorkshire

NORTHUMBRIA

- **The trail of Celtic Christianity**
- **Life as it was lived, in Beamish Open Air Museum**
- **Hadrian's Wall from coast to coast**

A boat trip to the **Farne Islands** *(see p418)* off Lindisfarne is the starting point to unravelling early Celtic Christianity, a journey that can be followed as far as **Durham Cathedral** *(see pp428–9)*. The **Beamish Open Air Museum** *(see pp424–5)*, which re-creates life in the northeast in the 19th century, makes a great family day out. Castles on Northumberland's coast were built to withstand Viking attack, but it is **Hadrian's Wall** *(see pp422–3)*, erected by the Romans to keep out the Scots, that is particularly impressive.

NORTH WALES

- **Wild Snowdonia National Park**
- **Narrow-gauge railways**
- **Stunning medieval castles**

This is the part of Wales, where Welsh is commonly spoken, and the annual Eisteddfod literary festival is held. Its wildness is captured around Snowdon, the highest mountain in England and Wales. The centre for exploring **Snowdonia National Park** *(see pp450–1)* is Llanberis from where a narrow-gauge railway runs to the top. Another former slate-quarry railway takes passengers up from the coast at Porthmadog near **Portmeirion** *(see p454–5)*. Medieval castles keep watch at **Harlech** *(see p454)*, **Caernarfon** *(see p444)* and **Conwy** *(see p438 and p447)*.

SOUTH AND MID WALES

- **Pony trekking in the hills**
- **Scenic coastal walks**
- **Hay-on-Wye literary festival**

This is a region to tour by car, to go walking or pony trekking, across mountains like the **Brecon Beacons** *(see pp468–9)*. The roads are emptier than England's and the valleys are green and lush. The coast has some delightful ports and long-established resorts. The most attractive are around the **Gower Peninsula** *(see p466)* and in Pembrokeshire in the south west where there is the diminutive **St Davids Cathedral** *(see pp464–5)*. Wales is known for its male voice choirs – as well as its men of letters – **Hay-on-Wye** *(see p461)* hosts an annual literary festival.

Cliffs of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, South Wales

SCOTTISH LOWLANDS

- **Glasgow, dynamic city of art**
- **Medieval Edinburgh and its Georgian New Town**
- **Magnificent abbeys and castles**

The capital **Edinburgh** *(see pp504–11)* and **Glasgow** *(see pp516–21)* are Scotland's dazzling cities, both full of interest and worth several days' exploration. Charles Rennie Mackintosh left his Art Nouveau mark on Glasgow, while thousands of hopeful performers attempt to find fame in Edinburgh each August at the famous festival. The capital's high points are **Edinburgh Castle** *(see pp506–7)*, keeper of the Scottish Crown jewels and the **Palace of Holyroodhouse** *(see p510)*, the Queen's official Scottish residence. Castles abound in the Lowlands, notably the Renaissance gem **Stirling** *(see pp497–8)*.

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

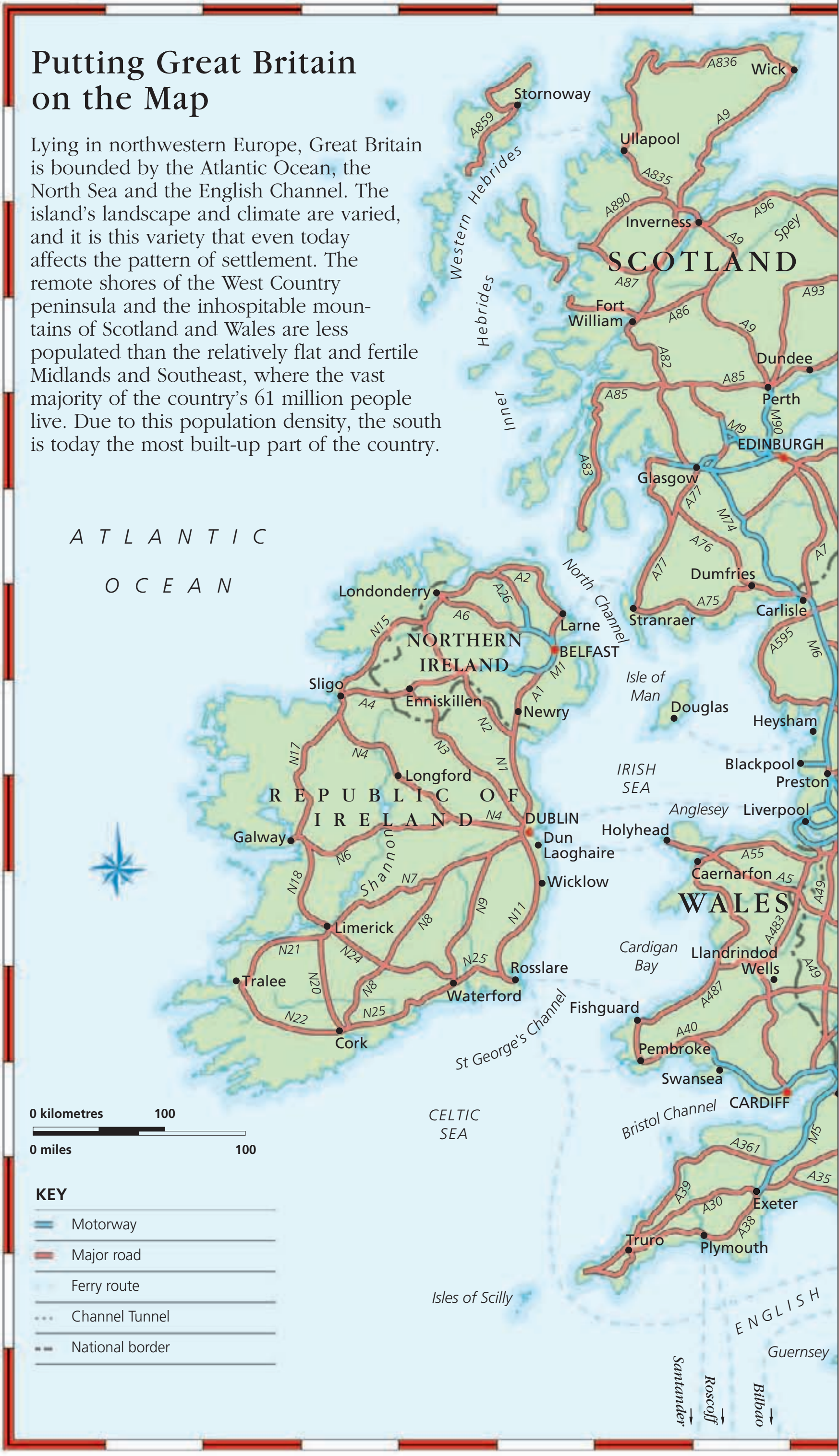
- **Mountain climbing and skiing**
- **The castles of Royal Deeside**
- **Remote, idyllic hills**

This is as wild as Britain gets: mountainous, heather-clad and dramatically remote, drifting into offshore islands. You may well see eagles and stags, while on the west coast seals swoop in on the beautiful shores. **Aberdeen** *(see pp538–40)* is the starting point for a tour of the castles of **Royal Deeside** *(see p540–1)*. Climb mountains, go skiing in Aviemore in the **Cairngorms** *(see pp544–5)*, follow the whisky trails and take a ferry to the Western Isles.

A view of Edinburgh Castle, Scotland

Putting Great Britain on the Map

Lying in northwestern Europe, Great Britain is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea and the English Channel. The island's landscape and climate are varied, and it is this variety that even today affects the pattern of settlement. The remote shores of the West Country peninsula and the inhospitable mountains of Scotland and Wales are less populated than the relatively flat and fertile Midlands and Southeast, where the vast majority of the country's 61 million people live. Due to this population density, the south is today the most built-up part of the country.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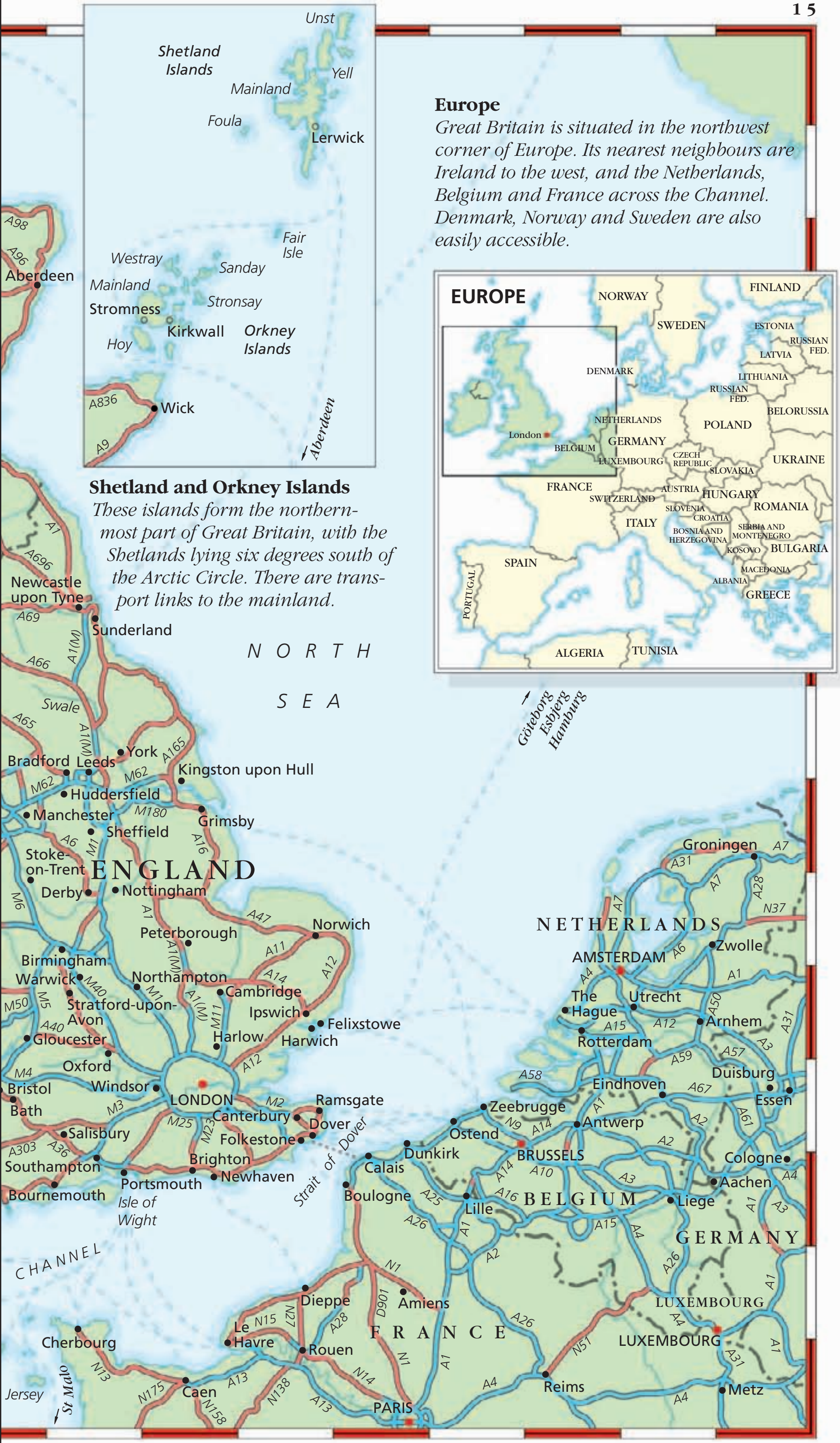
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A13
N14
PARIS
A4
Reims
N51
A26
A26
Calais
Boulogne
A25
Dunkirk
A1
Lille
A2
Ostend
Zeebrugge
N9
A14
BRUSSELS
A14
A10
A16
B E L G I U M
Antwerp
A58
Eindhoven
A1
A2
A3
A15
A4
Liege
Aachen
Cologne
A4
A1
A3
G E R M A N Y
A26
A1
LUXEMBOURG
A4
LUXEMBOURG
A31
A1
A4
Metz
N E T H E R L A N D S
Groningen
A7
A31
A7
A28
N37
A7
Zwolle
AMSTERDAM
A6
A4
A1
The Hague
Utrecht
A50
A15
A12
Arnhem
A31
Rotterdam
A59
A57
A3
Duisburg
A67
Essen
A61
A2

Europe

Great Britain is situated in the northwest corner of Europe. Its nearest neighbours are Ireland to the west, and the Netherlands, Belgium and France across the Channel. Denmark, Norway and Sweden are also easily accessible.

Shetland and Orkney Islands

These islands form the northernmost part of Great Britain, with the Shetlands lying six degrees south of the Arctic Circle. There are transport links to the mainland.

Regional Great Britain: London, the South, the Midlands and Wales

Great Britain has airline connections with most cities in the world. London is the main transport hub with three major international airports, including Heathrow, the world's busiest. Southern England, Britain's most populous area, is divided, within this book, into four regions – Southeast England, the West Country, Wales and the Midlands – with a separate chapter for London. Road and rail links to the North and Scotland *(see pp18–19)* are plentiful, as are links between all main towns.

KEY TO COLOUR-CODING

- 🟥 London

Southeast England

- 🟩 The Downs and Channel Coast
- 🟦 East Anglia
- 🟨 Thames Valley

The West Country

- 🟦 Wessex
- 🟧 Devon and Cornwall

Wales

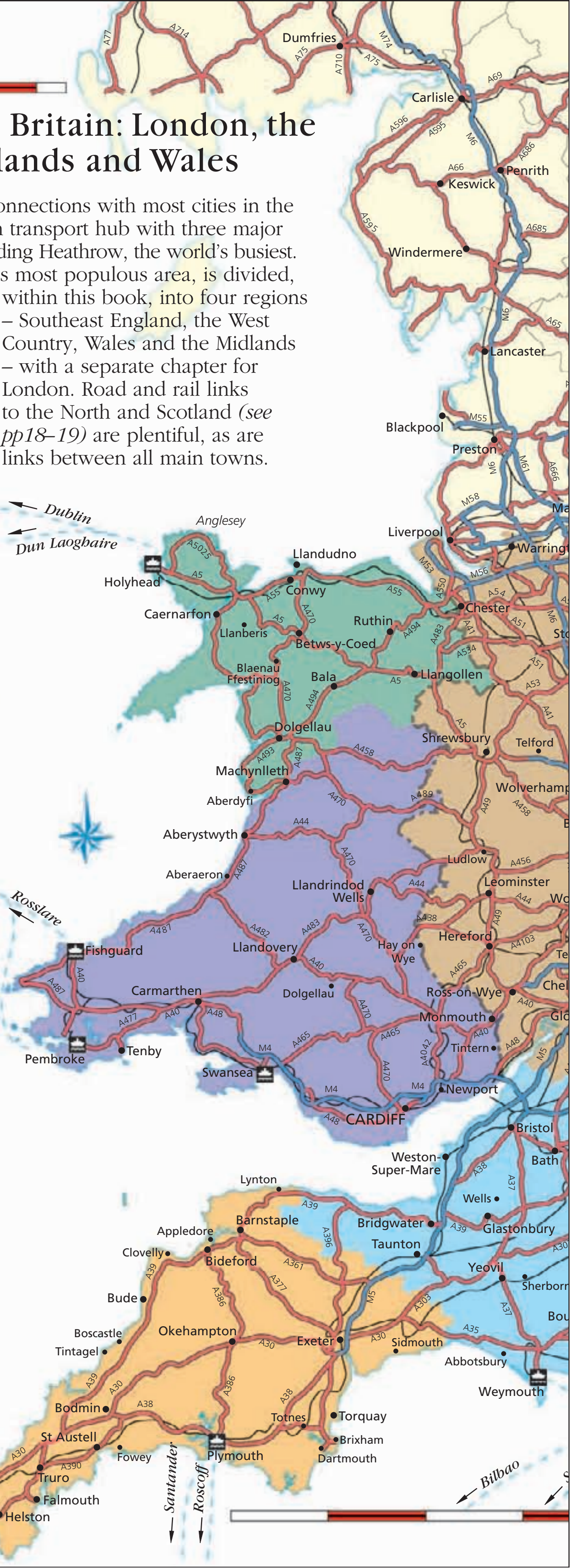
- 🟩 North Wales
- 🟦 South and Mid-Wales

The Midlands

- 🟫 The Heart of England
- 🟦 East Midlands

KEY TO MAP

- ⛴ Ferry port
- ✈ Airport
- ━ Motorway
- ━ Major road
- — Railway line
- - - Channel Tunnel



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A710
M74
Carlisle
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A595
M6
A686
A66
Penrith
Keswick
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A685
Windermere
M6
A65
Lancaster
Blackpool
M55
Preston
M6
M61
A666
M58
Dublin
Dun Laoghaire
Anglesey
Liverpool
Warring
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Holyhead
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Llandudno
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M56
Conwy
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A550
A54
Chester
Caernarfon
A5
A470
Ruthin
A494
A483
A41
A51
M6
Sto
Llanberis
Betws-y-Coed
A534
Blaenau Ffestiniog
Bala
A5
Llangollen
A51
A53
A470
A494
A41
Dolgellau
A5
Shrewsbury
Telford
A493
A487
A458
Machynlleth
Wolverhamp
A489
A470
A49
A458
Aberdyfi
A44
Aberystwyth
A470
Ludlow
A456
Aberaeron
A487
Llandrindod Wells
A44
Leominster
A44
Wo
Rosslare
A487
A482
A483
A438
A49
A470
Fishguard
Llandovery
Hay on Wye
Hereford
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Te
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Carmarthen
Dolgellau
Ross-on-Wye
Chel
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Monmouth
Glo
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Pembroke
Tenby
M4
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Tintern
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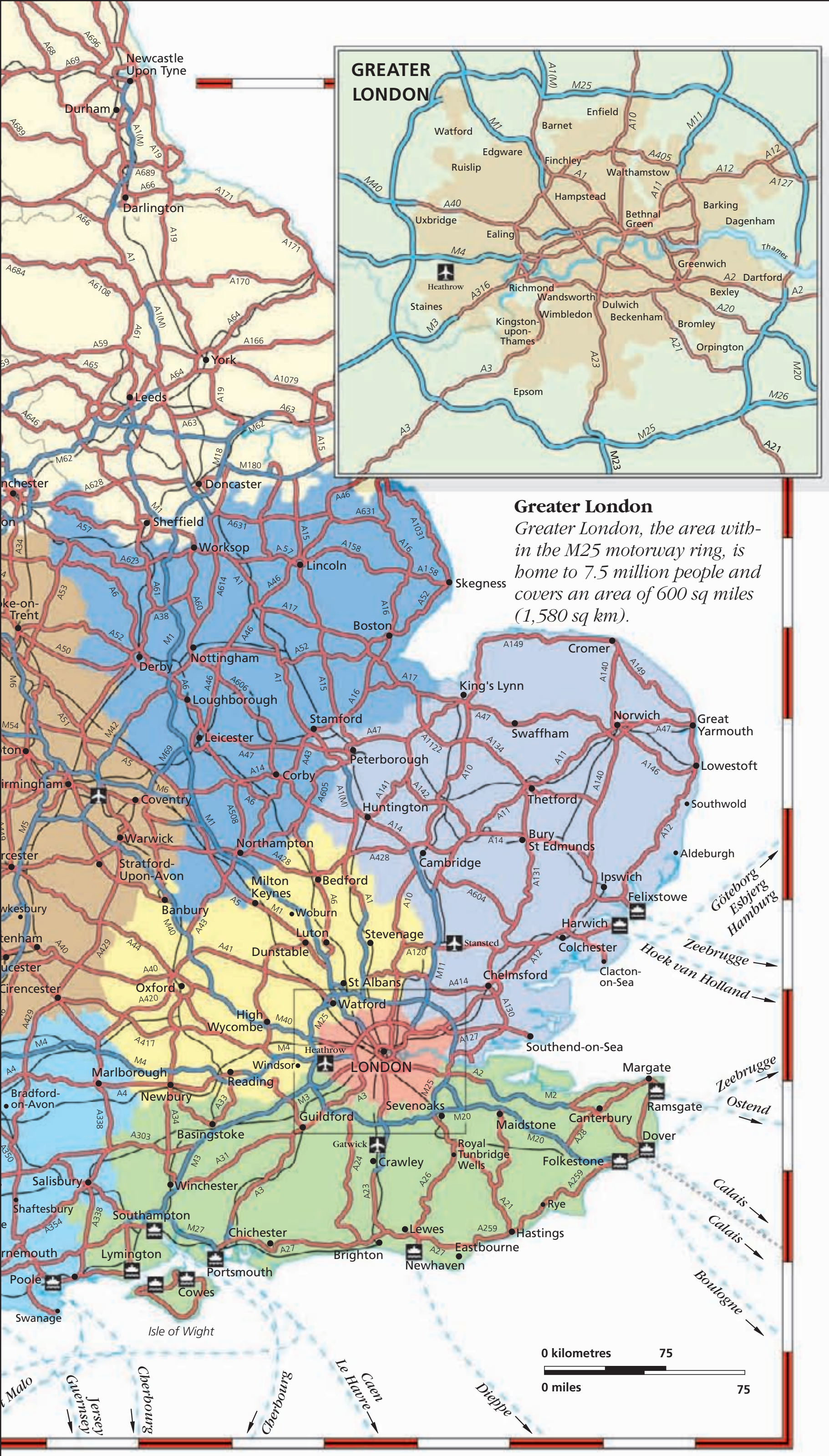
Swansea
A470
M4
M4
Newport
A48
CARDIFF
Bristol
Weston-Super-Mare
Bath
A38
A37
Lynton
Wells
A39
Barnstaple
Appledore
A396
Bridgwater
A39
Glastonbury
Taunton
A30
Clovelly
Bideford
A361
A39
A377
Yeovil
A386
M5
Sherborn
Bude
A303
A37
Bou
Boscastle
Okehampton
Tintagel
A30
Exeter
A30
Sidmouth
A35
Abbotsbury
A39
A30
A386
Weymouth
A38
Bodmin
A38
Totnes
Torquay
St Austell
Brixham
Fowey
Plymouth
Dartmouth
A30
A390
Santander
Roscoff
Truro
St Ives
Bilbao
Falmouth
Penzance
Helston

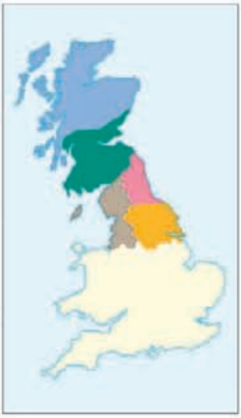

GREATER LONDON
Watford
Barnet
Enfield
Edgware
Finchley
Ruislip
Walthamstow
Hampstead
Barking
Dagenham
Uxbridge
Bethnal Green
Ealing
Thames
Greenwich
Heathrow
Dartford
Bexley
Richmond
Wandsworth
Staines
Dulwich
Wimbledon
Beckenham
Kingston-upon-Thames
Bromley
Orpington
Epsom
Newcastle Upon Tyne
Durham
Darlington
York
Leeds
Doncaster
Sheffield
Worksop
Lincoln
Skegness
Boston
Nottingham
Derby
Loughborough
Leicester
Stamford
Peterborough
Corby
Coventry
Warwick
Stratford-Upon-Avon
Northampton
Huntington
Cambridge
Bedford
Milton Keynes
Woburn
Banbury
Luton
Dunstable
Stevenage
Stansted
St Albans
Watford
Oxford
High Wycombe
Windsor
Heathrow
LONDON
Reading
Marlborough
Newbury
Bradford-on-Avon
Basingstoke
Guildford
Sevenoaks
Gatwick
Crawley
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Maidstone
Canterbury
Margate
Ramsgate
Dover
Folkestone
Rye
Hastings
Eastbourne
Lewes
Brighton
Newhaven
Chichester
Portsmouth
Southampton
Winchester
Salisbury
Shaftesbury
Lymington
Poole
Swanage
Cowes
Isle of Wight
King's Lynn
Cromer
Swaffham
Norwich
Great Yarmouth
Lowestoft
Southwold
Thetford
Bury St Edmunds
Aldeburgh
Ipswich
Felixstowe
Harwich
Colchester
Clacton-on-Sea
Chelmsford
Southend-on-Sea
Göteborg
Esbjerg
Hamburg
Zeebrugge
Hoek van Holland
Zeebrugge
Ostend
Calais
Calais
Boulogne
Dieppe
Caen
Le Havre
Cherbourg
Cherbourg
Jersey
Guernsey
St Malo
nchester
ke-on-Trent
irmingham
rcester
wkesbury
tenham
ucester
Cirencester
rnemouth
0 kilometres 75
0 miles 75

Greater London

Greater London, the area within the M25 motorway ring, is home to 7.5 million people and covers an area of 600 sq miles (1,580 sq km).

Regional Great Britain: The North and Scotland

This part of Great Britain is divided into two sections in this book. Although it is far less populated than the southern sector of the country, there are good road and rail connections, and ferry services link the islands with the mainland.



KEY TO COLOUR-CODING

The North Country

- ▨ Lancashire and the Lakes
- 🟧 Yorkshire and Humber Region
- ▨ Northumbria

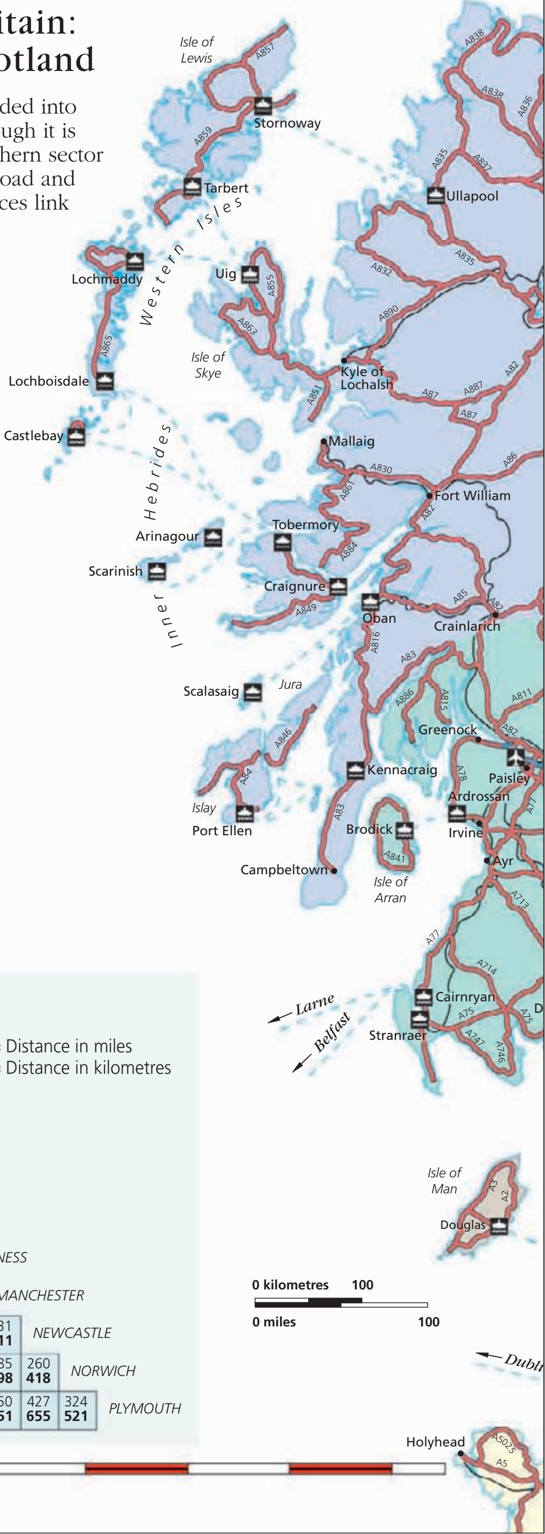
Scotland

- 🟩 The Lowlands
- 🟦 The Highlands and Islands

MILEAGE CHART

10 = Distance in miles
10 = Distance in kilometres

	LONDON	BIRMINGHAM	CARDIFF	DOVER	EDINBURGH	GLASGOW	INVERNESS	MANCHESTER	NEWCASTLE	NORWICH
BIRMINGHAM	111 **179**									
CARDIFF	150 **241**	102 **164**								
DOVER	74 **119**	185 **298**	228 **367**							
EDINBURGH	372 **599**	290 **466**	373 **600**	442 **711**						
GLASGOW	389 **626**	292 **470**	374 **602**	466 **750**	45 **72**					
INVERNESS	529 **851**	448 **721**	530 **853**	600 **966**	158 **254**	167 **269**				
MANCHESTER	184 **296**	81 **130**	173 **278**	257 **414**	213 **343**	214 **344**	371 **597**			
NEWCASTLE	274 **441**	204 **328**	301 **484**	343 **552**	107 **172**	145 **233**	265 **426**	131 **211**		
NORWICH	112 **180**	161 **259**	235 **378**	167 **269**	360 **579**	383 **616**	517 **832**	185 **298**	260 **418**	
PLYMOUTH	212 **341**	206 **332**	152 **261**	287 **462**	427 **784**	426 **785**	545 **1038**	250 **451**	427 **655**	324 **521**


Isle of Lewis
Stornoway
Tarbert
Western Isles
Lochmaddy
Uig
Isle of Skye
Lochboisdale
Castlebay
Ullapool
Kyle of Lochalsh
Mallaig
Fort William
Inner Hebrides
Arinagour
Tobermory
Scarinish
Craignure
Oban
Crainlarich
Scalasaig
Jura
Greenock
Kennacraig
Paisley
Ardrossan
Irvine
Islay
Port Ellen
Brodick
Ayr
Campbeltown
Isle of Arran
Cairnryan
Stranraer
Larne
Belfast
Isle of Man
Douglas
Holyhead
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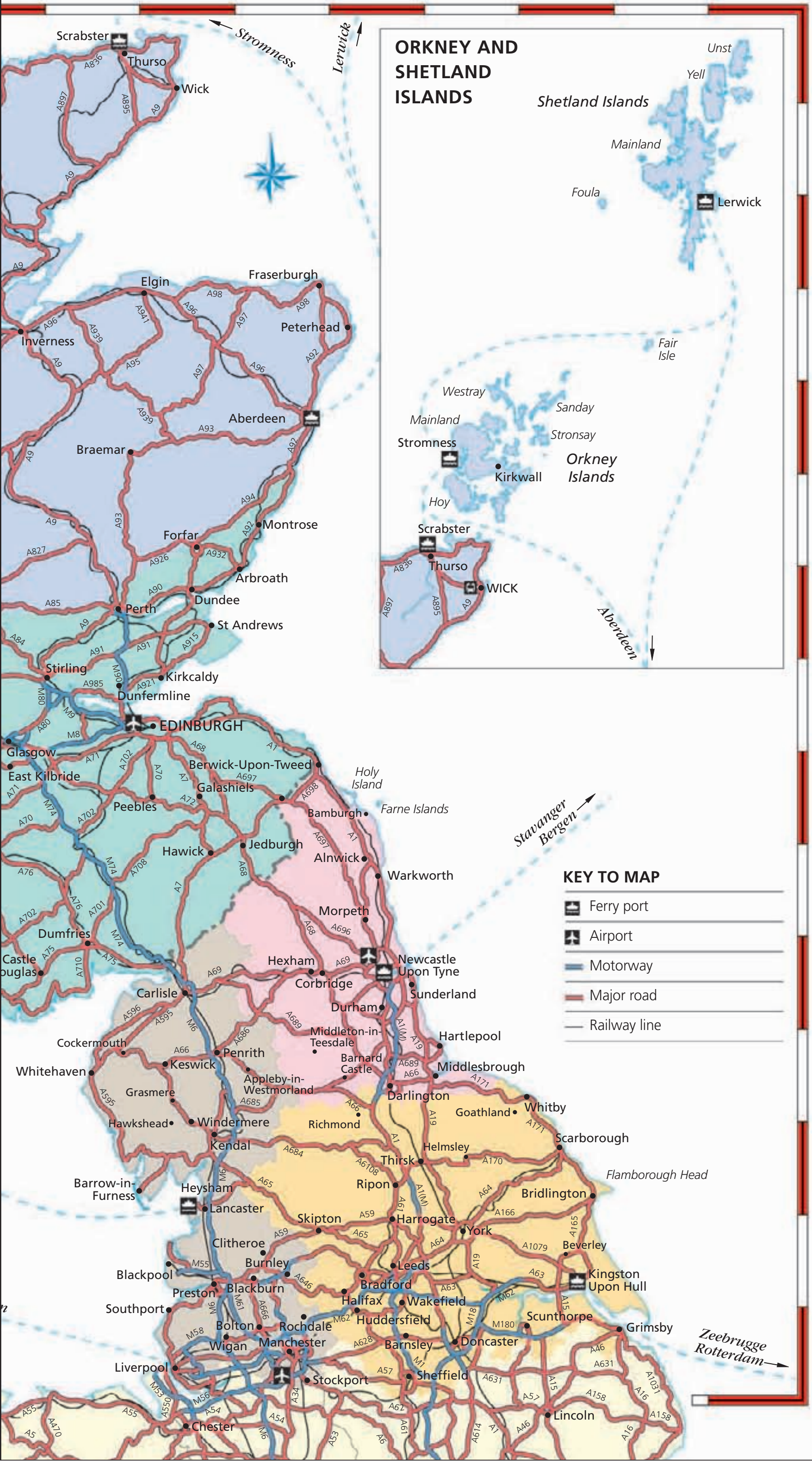
ORKNEY AND SHETLAND ISLANDS
Unst
Yell
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Mainland
Foula
Lerwick
Fair Isle
Westray
Sanday
Mainland
Stronsay
Stromness
Orkney Islands
Kirkwall
Hoy
Scrabster
Thurso
WICK
Aberdeen
KEY TO MAP
Ferry port
Airport
Motorway
Major road
Railway line
Scrabster
Thurso
Wick
Stromness
Lerwick
Elgin
Fraserburgh
Peterhead
Inverness
Aberdeen
Braemar
Montrose
Forfar
Arbroath
Perth
Dundee
St Andrews
Stirling
Kirkcaldy
Dunfermline
EDINBURGH
Glasgow
East Kilbride
Berwick-Upon-Tweed
Galashiels
Peebles
Holy Island
Farne Islands
Bamburgh
Alnwick
Warkworth
Jedburgh
Hawick
Morpeth
Dumfries
Castle Douglas
Stavanger Bergen
Hexham
Corbridge
Newcastle Upon Tyne
Sunderland
Carlisle
Durham
Hartlepool
Cockermouth
Whitehaven
Keswick
Penrith
Middleton-in-Teesdale
Barnard Castle
Middlesbrough
Appleby-in-Westmorland
Darlington
Grasmere
Hawkshead
Windermere
Kendal
Richmond
Goathland
Whitby
Scarborough
Helmsley
Thirsk
Flamborough Head
Barrow-in-Furness
Heysham
Lancaster
Ripon
Bridlington
Skipton
Harrogate
York
Clitheroe
Beverley
Burnley
Leeds
Blackpool
Preston
Blackburn
Bradford
Kingston Upon Hull
Halifax
Wakefield
Southport
Huddersfield
Scunthorpe
Grimsby
Bolton
Rochdale
Wigan
Manchester
Barnsley
Doncaster
Zeebrugge Rotterdam
Liverpool
Stockport
Sheffield
Chester
Lincoln

A PORTRAIT OF GREAT BRITAIN

Britain has been assiduous in preserving its traditions, but offers the visitor much more than stately castles and pretty villages. A diversity of landscape, culture, literature, art and architecture, as well as its unique heritage, results in a nation balancing the needs of the present with those of its past.

Tudor rose

Britain's character has been shaped by its geographical position as an island. Never successfully invaded since 1066, its people have developed their own distinctive traditions. The Roman invasion of AD 43 lasted 350 years but Roman culture and language were quickly overlain with those of the northern European settlers who followed. Ties with Europe were loosened further in the 16th century when the Catholic church was replaced by a less dogmatic established church.

Although today a member of the European Union, Britain continues to delight in its non-conformity, even in superficial ways such as driving on the left-hand side of the road instead of the right. The opening of the rail tunnel to France is a topographical adjustment that does not necessarily mark a change in national attitude.

The British heritage is seen in its ancient castles, cathedrals and stately homes with their gardens and Classical parklands. Age-old customs are renewed each year, from royal ceremonies to Morris dancers performing on village greens.

For a small island, Great Britain encompasses a surprising variety in its regions, whose inhabitants maintain distinct identities. Scotland and Wales are separate countries from England with their own legislative assemblies.

Walking along the east bank of the River Avon, Bath

◁ **Punting, a popular pastime on the River Cam, Cambridge**

Widecombe-in-the-Moor, a Devon village clustered round a church and set in hills

They have different customs, traditions, and, in the case of Scotland, different legal and educational systems. The Welsh and Scots Gaelic languages survive and are sustained by their own radio and television networks. In northern and West Country areas, English itself is spoken in a rich variety of dialects and accents, and these areas maintain their own regional arts, crafts, architecture and food.

The landscape is varied, too, from the craggy mountains of Wales, Scotland and the north, through the flat expanses of the Midlands and eastern England to the soft, rolling hills of the south and west. The long, broad beaches of East Anglia contrast with the picturesque rocky inlets along much of the west coast.

Scottish coat of arms at Edinburgh Castle

Lake and gardens at Petworth House, Sussex

Despite the spread of towns and cities over the last two centuries, rural Britain still flourishes. Nearly three-quarters of Britain's land is used for agriculture. The main commercial crops are wheat, barley, sugar beet and potatoes, though what catches the eye in early summer are the fields of bright yellow rape or slate-blue flax.

The countryside is dotted with farms and charming villages, with picturesque cottages and lovingly tended gardens – a British passion. A typical village is built around an ancient church and a small, friendly pub. Here the pace of life slows. To drink a pint of ale in a cosy, village inn and relax before a fire is a time-honoured British custom. Strangers will be welcomed cordially, though perhaps with caution; for even if strict formality is a thing of the past, the British have a tendency to be reserved.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, trade with the extensive British Empire, fuelled by abundant coal supplies, spurred manufacturing and created wealth. Thousands of people moved from the countryside to towns and cities near mines, mills and factories. By 1850 Britain was the world's strongest industrial nation. Now many of these old industrial centres have declined, and today manufacturing employs only 22 per cent of the labour force, while 66 per cent work in the growing service sector. These service industries are located mainly in the southeast, close to London, where modern office buildings bear witness to comparative prosperity.

Crowds at Petticoat Lane market in London's East End

SOCIETY AND POLITICS

British cities are melting-pots for people not just from different parts of the country but also from overseas. Irish immigration has long ensured a flow of labour into the country, and since the 1950s hundreds of thousands have come from former colonies in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Today, EU membership has led to another wave of immigration to Britain, mostly from Eastern Europe. Nearly six per cent of Britain's 60 million inhabitants are from non-white ethnic groups – and about half of these were born in Britain. The result is a multi-cultural society that can boast a wide range of music, art, food and religions. However, prejudice does exist and in some inner-city areas where poorer members of different communities live, racial tensions can occasionally arise. Even though discrimination in housing and employment on the grounds of race is against the law, it does occur. Britain's class structure still intrigues and bewilders many visitors, based as it is on a subtle mixture of heredity and wealth. Even though many of the great inherited fortunes no longer exist, some old landed families still live on their large estates, and many now open them to the public. Class divisions are further entrenched by the education system. While more than 90 per cent of children are educated free by the state, richer parents often opt for private schooling, and the products of these private schools are disproportionately represented in the higher echelons of government and business.

Bosses in Norwich Cathedral cloisters

Priest in the Close at Winchester Cathedral

The monarchy's position highlights the dilemma of a people seeking to preserve its most potent symbol of national unity in an age that is suspicious of inherited privilege. Without real political power, though still head of the Church of England, the Queen and her family are subject to increasing public scrutiny and some citizens advocate the abolition of the monarchy.

Democracy has deep foundations in Britain: there was even a parliament of sorts in London in the 13th century.

Afternoon tea on the back lawn at the Thornbury Castle Hotel, Avon

Yet with the exception of the 17th-century Civil War, power has passed gradually from the Crown to the people's elected representatives. A series of Reform Acts between 1832 and 1884 gave the vote to all male citizens, though women were not enfranchised on an equal basis until 1928. Margaret Thatcher – Britain's first woman Prime Minister – held office for 12 years from 1979. During the 20th century, the Labour (left wing) and Conservative (right wing) parties have, during their periods in office, favoured a mix of public and private ownership for industry and ample funding for the state health and welfare systems.

The position of Ireland has been an intractable political issue since the 17th century. Part of the United Kingdom for 800 years, but divided in 1921, it has seen conflict between Catholics and Protestants for many years. The Good Friday Peace Agreement of 1998 was a huge step forward and the path to lasting peace now seems possible.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Britain has a famous theatrical tradition stretching back to the 16th century and William Shakespeare. His plays have been performed on stage almost continuously since he wrote them, and the works of 17th- and 18th-century writers are also frequently revived. Contemporary British playwrights such as Tom Stoppard, Alan Ayckbourn and David Hare draw on this long tradition with their vivid language and by using comedy to illustrate serious themes. British actors such as Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen, Ralph Fiennes, Kate Winslet and Anthony Hopkins have international reputations.

The House of Lords, in Parliament

While London is the focal point of British theatre, fine drama is to be seen in many other parts of the country. The Edinburgh Festival and its Fringe are the high point of Great Britain's cultural calendar with theatre and music to suit all tastes. Other music festivals are held across the country, chiefly in summer, while there are annual festivals of literature at Hay-on-Wye and Cheltenham. Poetry has had an enthusiastic following since Chaucer wrote the *Canterbury Tales* in the 14th century: poems from all eras can even be read on the London Underground, where they are interspersed with the advertisements in the carriages and on the station platforms.

Schoolboys at Eton, the famous public school

In the visual arts, Britain has a strong tradition in portraiture, caricature, landscape and watercolour. In modern times David Hockney and Lucian Freud, and sculptors Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, have enjoyed worldwide recognition. Architects including

Reading the newspaper in Kensington Gardens

Christopher Wren, Inigo Jones, John Nash and Robert Adam all created styles that define British cities; and today, Norman Foster and Richard Rogers carry the standard for Post-Modernism. Britain is becoming famous for its innovative fashion designers, many of whom now show their spring and autumn collections in Paris.

Naomi Campbell, a British supermodel

The British are avid newspaper readers. There are 11 national newspapers published from London on weekdays: the standard of the serious newspapers is very high; for example, *The Times* is read the world over because of its reputation for strong intentional reporting. Most popular, however, are the tabloids packed with gossip, crime and sport, which account for some 80 per cent of the total.

The indigenous film industry has produced international hits such as *The Queen* and *Slumdog Millionaire,* though blockbusters such as the Harry Potter films are often backed by the US. Acclaimed British film directors include Danny Boyle and Mike Leigh. British television is famous for the quality of its news, current affairs and drama programmes. The publicly funded British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), which controls five national radio networks and two terrestrial television channels, as well as additional radio stations and television channels via digital technology, is widely admired.

The British are great sports fans, and soccer, rugby, cricket and golf are popular. An instantly recognizable English image is that of the cricket match on a village green. Nationwide, fishing is the most popular sporting pastime, and the British make excellent use of their national parks as keen walkers.

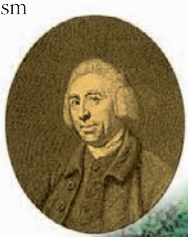
British food used to be derided for its lack of imagination, but influences from abroad have led to the introduction of a wider range of ingredients and more adventurous tecniques. Typical English food – plain home cooking and regional dishes – has also enjoyed a revival.

In this, as in other respects, the British are doing what they have done for centuries: accommodating their own traditions to influences from other cultures, while leaving the essential elements of their national life and character intact.

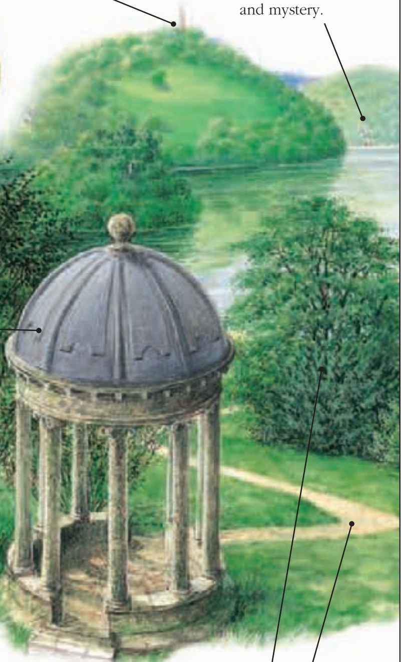
Whitby harbour and St Mary's Church, Yorkshire

Gardens Through the Ages

Styles of gardening in Britain have expanded alongside architecture and other evolving fashions. The Elizabethan knot garden became more elaborate and formal in Jacobean times, when the range of plants greatly increased. The 18th century brought a taste for large-scale "natural" landscapes with lakes, woods and pastures, creating the most distinctively English style to have emerged. In the 19th century, fierce debate raged between supporters of natural and formal gardens, developing into the eclecticism of the 20th century when "garden rooms" in differing styles became popular.



"Capability" Brown (1715–83) *was Britain's most influential garden designer, favouring the move away from formal gardens to man-made pastoral settings.*



Monumental column

A grotto and cascade brought romance and mystery.

Blackthorn

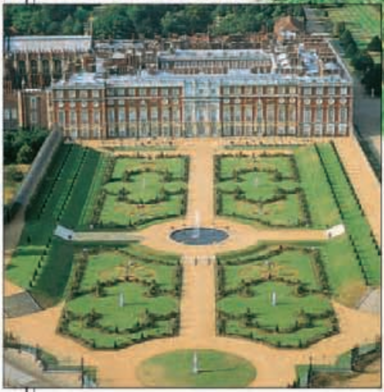
Classical temples were a much appreciated feature in 18th-century gardens and were often exact replicas of buildings that the designers had seen in Greece.

Maple

Winding paths were carefully planned to allow changing vistas to open out as visitors strolled around the garden.

IDEAL LANDSCAPE GARDEN

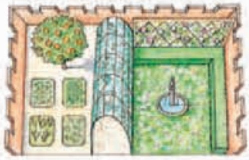
Classical Greece and Rome inspired the grand gardens of the early 18th century, such as Stourhead and Stowe. Informal clumps of trees played a critical part in the serene, manicured landscapes.



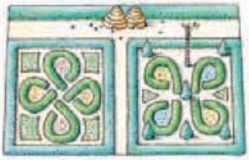
Elaborate parterres *were a feature of aristocratic gardens of the 17th century, when the fashion spread from Europe. This is the Privy Garden at Hampton Court Palace, restored in 1995 to its design under William III.*

DESIGN AND FORMALITY

A flower garden is a work of artifice, an attempt to tame nature rather than to copy it. Growing plants in rows or regular patterns, interspersed with statues and ornaments, imposes a sense of order. Designs change to reflect the fashion of the time and the introduction of new plants.

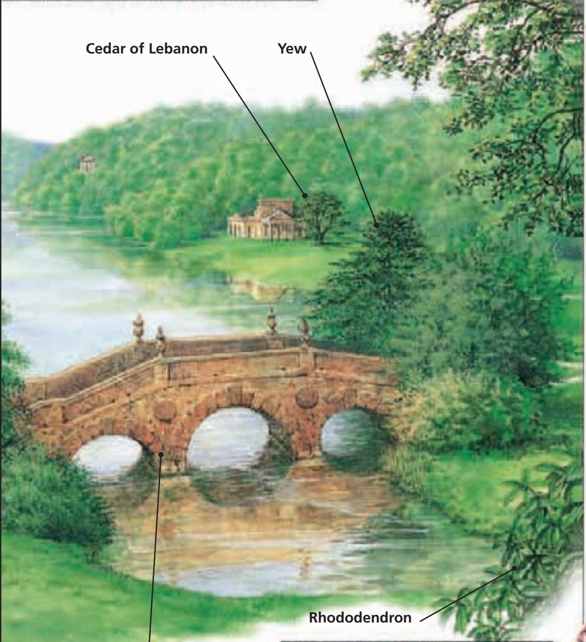


Medieval gardens usually had a herber (a turfed sitting area) and a vine arbour. A good reconstruction is Queen Eleanor's Garden, Winchester.



Tudor gardens featured edged borders and sometimes mazes. The Tudor House Garden, Southampton, also has beehives and heraldic statues.

Herbaceous borders, *full of lush plants, are the glory of the summer garden. Gertrude Jekyll (1843–1932), was high priestess of the mixed border, with her eye for seductive colour combinations.*



The Palladian bridge was a favourite feature, often decorative rather than practical.

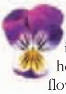
Knot Gardens *were in vogue in the 1500s. Intersecting lines of lavender or box were filled with flowers, herbs or vegetables, as in this restoration at Pitmedden in Scotland.*

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

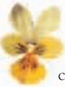
The "yellow book", Gardens of England and Wales, *the annual guide to the National Gardens Scheme, lists gardens open to the public.*

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODERN PANSY

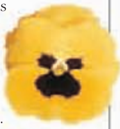
All garden plants derive from wild flowers, bred over the years to produce qualities that appeal to gardeners. The story of the pansy, one of our most popular flowers, is typical.



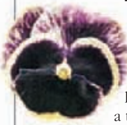
The wild pansy (Viola tricolor) native to Britain is commonly known as heartsease. It is a small-flowered annual which can vary considerably in colour.



The mountain pansy (Viola lutea) is a perennial. The first cultivated varieties resulted from crossing it with heartsease in the early 19th century.

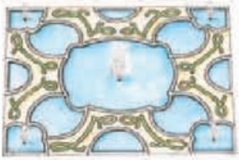


The Show Pansy was bred by florists after the blotch appeared as a chance seedling in 1840. It was round in form with a small, symmetrical blotch.

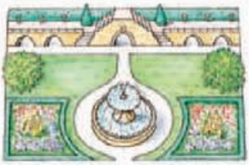


The Fancy Pansy, developed in the 1860s, was much larger. The blotch covered all three lower petals save for a thin margin of colour.

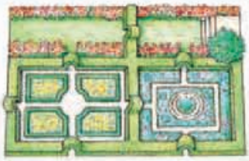
Modern hybrids of pansies, violas and violettas, developed by selective breeding, are varied and versatile in a wide range of vibrant new colours.



17th-century gardening was more elaborate. Water gardens like those at Blenheim were often combined with parterres of exotic foreign plants.

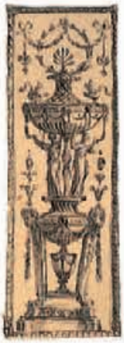


Victorian gardens, their formal beds a mass of colour, were a reaction to the landscapes of "Capability" Brown. Alton Towers has a good example.



20th-century gardens mix historic and modern styles, as at Hidcote Manor, Gloucestershire. Growing wild flowers is becoming a popular choice.

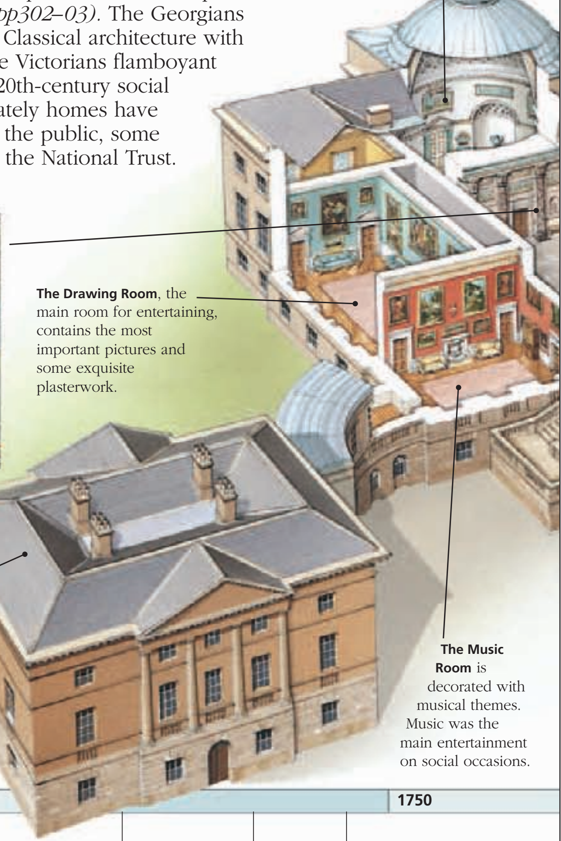
Stately Homes



Adam sketch (c.1760) for ornate panel

The grand country house reached its zenith in the 18th and 19th centuries, when the old landed families and the new captains of industry enjoyed their wealth, looked after by a retinue of servants. The earliest stately homes date from the 14th century, when defence was paramount. By the 16th century, when the opulent taste of the European Renaissance spread to England, houses became centres of pleasure and showplaces for fine art *(see pp302–03).* The Georgians favoured chaste Classical architecture with rich interiors, the Victorians flamboyant Gothic. Due to 20th-century social change many stately homes have been opened to the public, some administered by the National Trust.

The Marble Hall *is where balls and other social functions took place among Corinthian columns of pink alabaster.*



The saloon, a domed rotunda based on the Pantheon in Rome, was designed to display the Curzon family's Classical sculpture collection to 18th-century society

The Drawing Room, the main room for entertaining, contains the most important pictures and some exquisite plasterwork.

The Family Wing is a self-contained "pavilion" of private living quarters; the servants lived in rooms above the kitchen. The Curzon family still live here.

The Music Room is decorated with musical themes. Music was the main entertainment on social occasions.

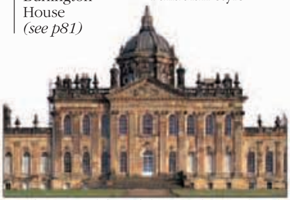
TIMELINE OF ARCHITECTS

1650

Sir John Vanbrugh *(see p398)* was helped by **Nicholas Hawksmoor** (1661–1736) on Blenheim Palace *(see pp228–29)*

Colen Campbell (1676–1729) designed Burlington House *(see p81)*

William Kent (1685–1748) built Holkham Hall *(see p197)* in the Palladian style



Castle Howard (1702) by Sir John Vanbrugh

John Carr (1723–1807) designed the Palladian Harewood House *(see p410)*

Robert Adam (1728–92), who often worked with his brother James (1730–94) was as famous for decorative details as for buildings

1750

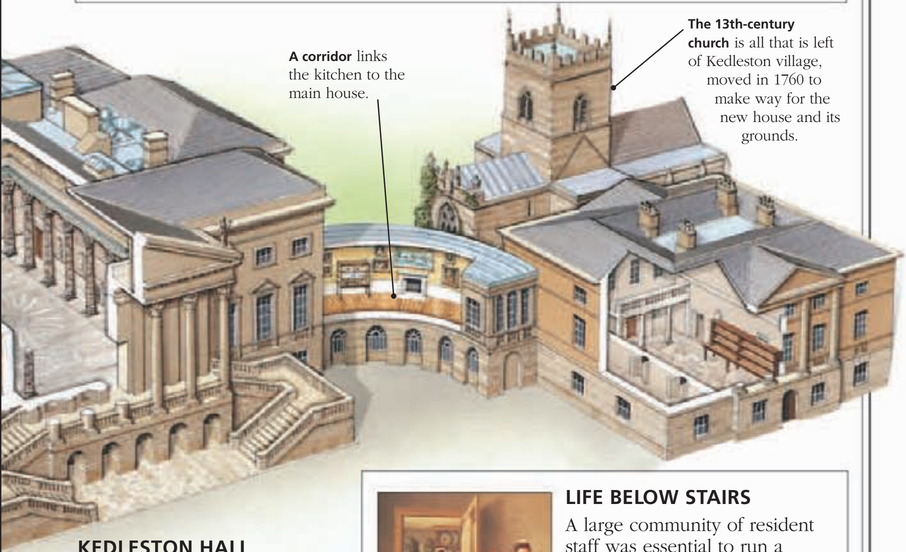
Henry Holland (1745–1806) designed the Neo-Classical south range of Woburn Abbey *(see p230)*

Adam fireplace, Kedleston Hall, adorned with Classical motifs

NATIONAL TRUST

At the end of the 19th century, there were real fears that burgeoning factories, mines, roads and houses would obliterate much of Britain's historic landscape and finest buildings. In 1895 a group that included the social refomer Octavia Hill formed the National Trust, to preserve the nation's valuable heritage. The first building acquired by the trust was the medieval Clergy House at Alfriston in Sussex, in 1896 *(see p180)*. Today the National Trust is a charity that runs many historic houses and gardens, and vast stretches of countryside and coastline *(see p671)*. It is supported by more than two million members nationwide.

National Trust oak leaf design



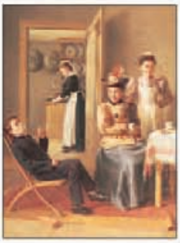
A corridor links the kitchen to the main house.

The 13th-century church is all that is left of Kedleston village, moved in 1760 to make way for the new house and its grounds.

KEDLESTON HALL

This Derbyshire mansion *(see p336)* is an early work of the influential Georgian architect Robert Adam, who was a pioneer of the Neo-Classical style derived from ancient Greece and Rome. It was built for the Curzon family in the 1760s.

LIFE BELOW STAIRS



***Life Below Stairs* by Charles Hunt (c.1890)**

A large community of resident staff was essential to run a country house smoothly. The butler was in overall charge, ensuring that meals were served on time. The housekeeper supervised uniformed maids who made sure the place was clean. The cook ran the kitchen, using fresh produce from the estate. Ladies' maids and valets acted as personal servants.

1800

1850

Dining Room, Cragside, Northumberland

Norman Shaw (1831–1912) was an exponent of Victorian Gothic, as in Cragside (above), and a pioneer of the Arts and Crafts movement *(see p328)*

Philip Webb (1831–1915) was a leading architect of the influential Arts and Crafts movement *(see p328)*, whose buildings favoured the simpler forms of an "Old English" style, instead of flamboyant Victorian Gothic

Standen, West Sussex (1891–94) by Philip Webb

Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869–1944) designed the elaborate Castle Drogo in Devon *(see p295)*, one of the last grand country houses

Heraldry and the Aristocracy

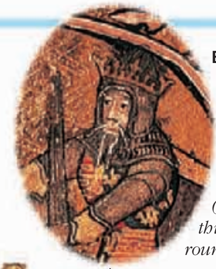
Order of the Garter medal

The British aristocracy has evolved over 900 years from the feudal obligations of noblemen to the Norman kings, who conferred privileges of rank and land in return for armed support. Subsequent monarchs bestowed titles and property on their supporters, establishing new aristocratic dynasties. The title of "earl" dates from the 11th century; that of "duke" from the 14th century. Soon the nobility began to choose their own symbols, partly to identify a knight concealed by his armour: these were often painted on the knight's coat (hence the term "coat of arms") and also copied onto his shield.

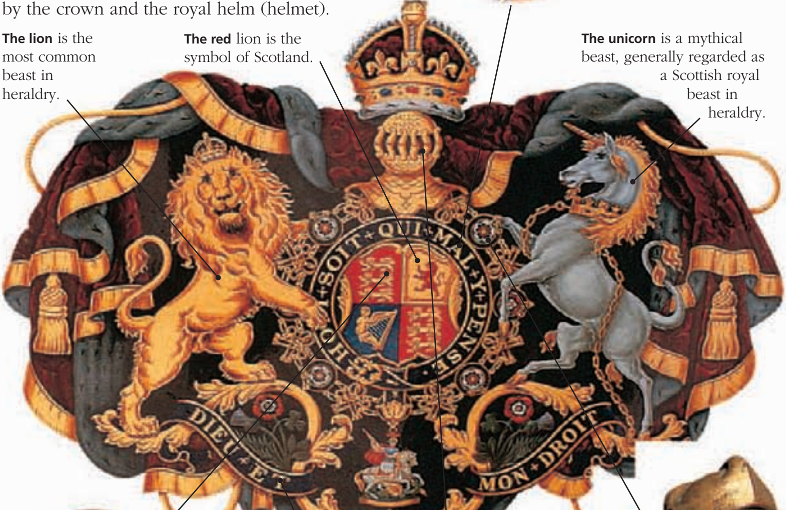
The College of Arms, London: housing records of all coats of arms and devising new ones

ROYAL COAT OF ARMS

The most familiar British coat of arms is the sovereign's. It appears on the royal standard, or flag, as well as on official documents and on shops that enjoy royal patronage. Over nearly 900 years, various monarchs have made modifications. The quartered shield in the middle displays the arms of England (twice), Scotland and Ireland. Surrounding it are other traditional images including the lion and unicorn, topped by the crown and the royal helm (helmet).



Edward III *(1327–77) was the founder of the chivalric Order of the Garter. The garter, bearing the motto,* Honi soit qui mal y pense *(evil be to him who thinks of evil), goes round the central shield.*



HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
DIEU ET MON DROIT

The lion is the most common beast in heraldry.

The red lion is the symbol of Scotland.

The unicorn is a mythical beast, generally regarded as a Scottish royal beast in heraldry.

Henry II *(1154–89) formalized his coat of arms to include three lions. This was developed by his son Richard I to become the "Gules three lions passant guardant or" seen on today's arms.*

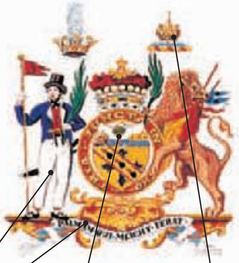
Dieu et mon droit (God and my right) has been the royal motto since the reign of Henry V (1413–22).

The royal helm with gold protective bars was introduced to the arms by Elizabeth I (1558–1603).

Henry VII *(1485–1509) devised the Tudor rose, joining the white and red roses of York and Lancaster.*

ADMIRAL LORD NELSON

When people are ennobled they may choose their own coat of arms if they do not already have one. Britain's naval hero (1758–1805) was made Baron Nelson of the Nile in 1798 and a viscount in 1801. His arms relate to his life and career at sea; but some symbols were added after his death.



A seaman supports the shield.

The motto means "Let him wear the palm (or laurel) who deserves it".

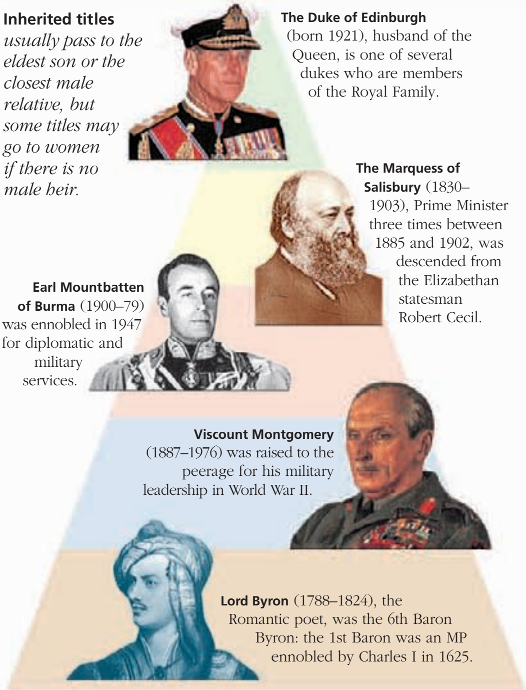
A tropical scene shows the Battle of the Nile (1798).

The San Joseph was a Spanish man o'war that Nelson daringly captured.

TRACING YOUR ANCESTRY

For records of births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales since 1837, contact the **General Register Office** (0845 603 7788; www.gro.gov.uk), and in Scotland **New Register House**, 3 West Register St, Edinburgh EH1 3YT (0131 334 0380; www.gro-scotland.gov.uk). For help in tracing family history, consult the **Society of Genealogists**, 14 Charterhouse Bldgs, London EC1 (020 7251 8799).

Inherited titles *usually pass to the eldest son or the closest male relative, but some titles may go to women if there is no male heir.*



The Duke of Edinburgh (born 1921), husband of the Queen, is one of several dukes who are members of the Royal Family.

The Marquess of Salisbury (1830–1903), Prime Minister three times between 1885 and 1902, was descended from the Elizabethan statesman Robert Cecil.

Earl Mountbatten of Burma (1900–79) was ennobled in 1947 for diplomatic and military services.

Viscount Montgomery (1887–1976) was raised to the peerage for his military leadership in World War II.

Lord Byron (1788–1824), the Romantic poet, was the 6th Baron Byron: the 1st Baron was an MP ennobled by Charles I in 1625.

PEERS OF THE REALM

There are nearly 1,200 peers of the realm. In 1999 the process began to abolish the hereditary system in favour of life peerages that expire on the death of the recipient *(see left and below)*. Ninety-two hereditary peers are entitled to sit in the House of Lords, including the Lords Spiritual – archbishops and senior bishops of the Church of England – and the Law Lords. In 1958 the Queen expanded the list of life peerages to honour people who had performed notable public service. From 1999 the system of "peoples peerages" began to replace inherited honours.

KEY TO THE PEERS

🟩 25 dukes

🟨 35 marquesses

🟥 175 earls and countesses

🟦 98 viscounts

🟫 800+ barons and baronesses

THE QUEEN'S HONOURS LIST

Twice a year several hundred men and women nominated by the Prime Minister and political leaders for outstanding public service receive honours from the Queen. Some are made dames or knights, a few receive the prestigious OM (Order of Merit), but far more receive lesser honours such as OBEs or MBEs (Orders or Members of the British Empire).

Mother Theresa *received the OM in 1983 for her work in India.*

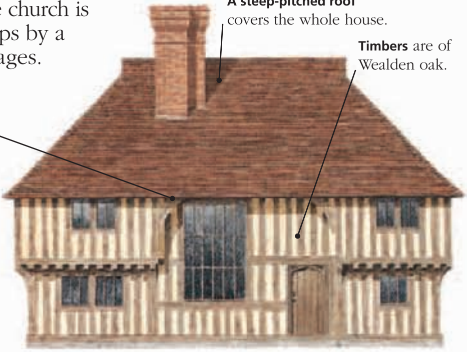
Terence Conran, *founder of Habitat, was knighted for services to industry.*

The Beatles *were given MBEs in 1965. Paul McCartney was knighted in 1997.*

Rural Architecture

For many, the essence of British life is found in villages. Their scale and serenity nurture a way of life envied by those who live in towns and cities. The pattern of British villages dates back some 1,500 years, when the Saxons cleared forests and established settlements, usually centred around a green or pond. Most of today's English villages existed at the time of the *Domesday Book* in 1086, though few actual buildings survive from then. The settlements evolved organically around a church or manor; the cottages and gardens were created from local materials. Today, a typical village will contain structures of various dates, from the Middle Ages onward. The church is usually the oldest, followed perhaps by a tithe barn, manor house and cottages.

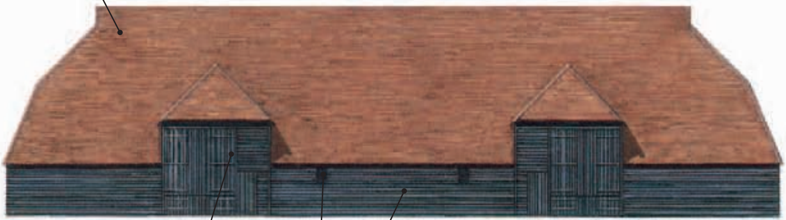
Abbotsbury, in Dorset – a typical village built up around a church


A steep-pitched roof covers the whole house.

Timbers are of Wealden oak.

Eaves are supported by curved braces.

Wealden Hall House *in Sussex is a medieval timber-framed house, of a type found in southeast England. It has a tall central open hall flanked by bays of two floors and the upper floor is "jettied", overhanging the ground floor.*


A tiled roof keeps the grain dry.

The entrance is big enough for ox-wagons.

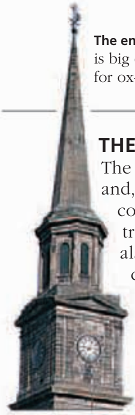
Holes let in air – and birds.

Walls and doors are weatherboarded.

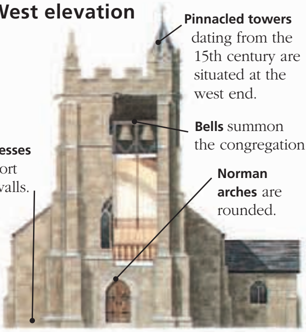
The medieval tithe barn *stored produce for the clergy – each farmer was required to donate one tenth (tithe) of his annual harvest. The enormous roofs may be supported by crucks, large curved timbers extending from the low walls.*

THE PARISH CHURCH

The church is the focal point of the village and, traditionally, of village life. Its tall spire could be seen – and its bells heard – by travellers from a distance. The church is also a chronicle of local history: a large church in a tiny village indicates a once-prosperous settlement. A typical church contains architectural features from many centuries, occasionally as far back as Saxon times. These may include medieval brasses, wall paintings, misericords *(see p341),* and Tudor and Stuart carvings. Many sell informative guide books inside.


Slender spire from the Georgian era

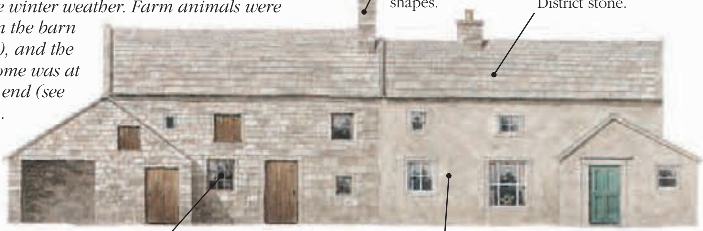
West elevation


Pinnacled towers dating from the 15th century are situated at the west end.

Bells summon the congregation.

Buttresses support old walls.

Norman arches are rounded.



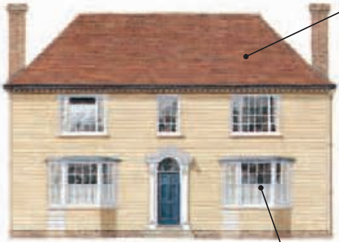
Stone cottages *such as this Pennine longhouse are built from hard, local granite, keeping out the severe winter weather. Farm animals were housed in the barn (on right), and the family home was at the other end (see far right).*

Chimneys come in various shapes.

The roof is made from slabs of Lake District stone.

Windows were often small in cold areas.

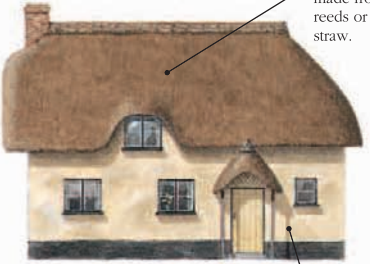
Type of stone used depends on locality. In Cumbria blue-grey Pennine stone was used.



The roof is surfaced with tiles.

Weatherboard houses *were built chiefly in southeast England in the 18th and 19th centuries; the timber boarding acted as cladding to keep out the cold and rain.*

Bay windows add light and space.



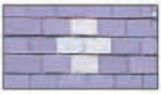
Thatch is made from reeds or straw.

Thatched cob cottages *of the 17th century have a cob covering a timber frame. The cob is made from a mixture of wet earth, lime, dung, chopped reed, straw, gravel, sand and stones.*

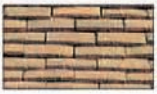
Walls are 1 m (3 ft) thick.

BUILDING MATERIALS

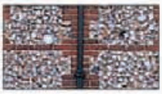
The choice of materials depended on local availability. A stone cottage in east Scotland or Cornwall would be granite, or in the Cotswolds, limestone. Timber for beams was often oak. Flint and pebble were popular in the chalky south and east. Slate is quarried in Wales and brick was widely used from Tudor times.



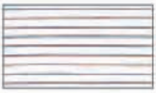
Welsh slate, making a durable roof



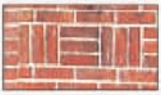
Tiles made from fired clay



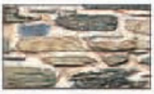
Flint and pebble – common in Norfolk



Wood planks used for weatherboarding

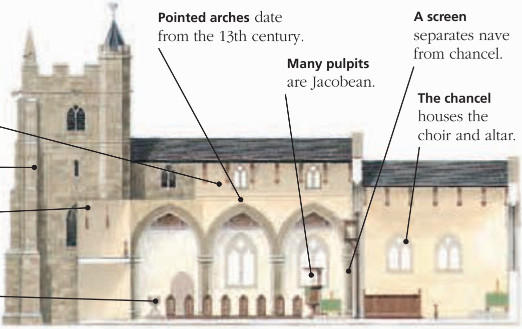


Brick, widely used since Tudor times



Local hard granite from South Wales

South elevation



The nave is often the oldest part of the building, with extensions added in later centuries.

Towers are often later additions, due to their tendency to collapse.

Ropes used by bell-ringers.

The font, where babies are baptized, is often a church's oldest feature.

Pointed arches date from the 13th century.

Many pulpits are Jacobean.

A screen separates nave from chancel.

The chancel houses the choir and altar.

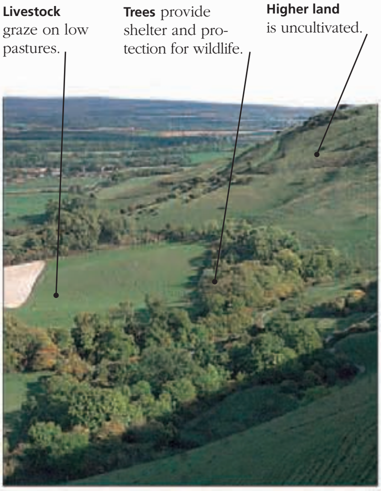
The Countryside

For its size, Britain contains an unusual variety of geological and climatic conditions that have shaped diverse landscapes, from treeless windswept moorland to boggy marshes and small hedged cattle pastures. Each terrain nurtures its typical wildlife and displays its own charm through the seasons. With the reduction in farming and the creation of footpaths and nature reserves, the countryside is becoming more of a leisure resource.

Common Blue butterfly

INDIGENOUS ANIMALS AND BIRDS

There are no large or dangerous wild animals in Britain but a wealth of small mammals, rodents and insects inhabit the countryside, and the rivers and streams are home to many varieties of fish. For bird-watchers there is a great range of songbirds, birds of prey and seabirds.



Livestock graze on low pastures.

Trees provide shelter and protection for wildlife.

Higher land is uncultivated.

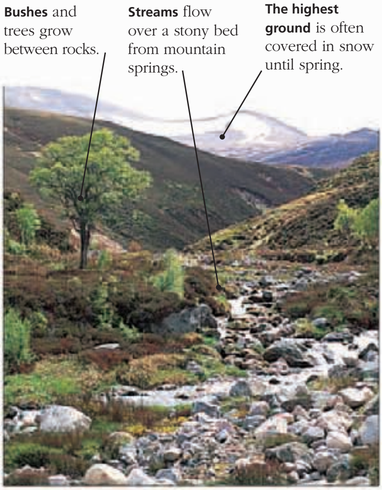
WOODED DOWNLAND

Chalk downland, seen here at Ditchling Beacon on the Downs *(see p181)*, has soil of low fertility and is grazed by sheep. However crops are sometimes grown on the lower slopes. Distinctive wild flowers and butterflies thrive here, while beech and yew predominate in the woods.

Spear thistle *has pink heads in summer that attract several species of butterfly.*

The dog rose *is one of Britain's best-loved wild flowers; its pink single flower is widely seen in hedgerows.*

Hogweed *has robust stems and leaves with large clusters of white flowers.*



Bushes and trees grow between rocks.

Streams flow over a stony bed from mountain springs.

The highest ground is often covered in snow until spring.

WILD HILLSIDE

Large tracts of Britain's uplands remain wild terrain, unsuitable for crops or forestry. Purple heather is tough enough to survive in moorland, the haunt of deer and game birds. The highest craggy uplands, such as the Cairngorms *(see p544–45)* in Scotland, pictured here, are the habitat of birds of prey, such as the golden eagle.

Ling, *a low-growing heather with tiny pink bell-flowers, adds splashes of colour to peaty moors and uplands.*

Tormentil *has small yellow flowers. It prefers moist, acid soil and is found near water on heaths and moors in summer.*

Meadow cranesbill *is a wild geranium with distinctive purple flowers.*

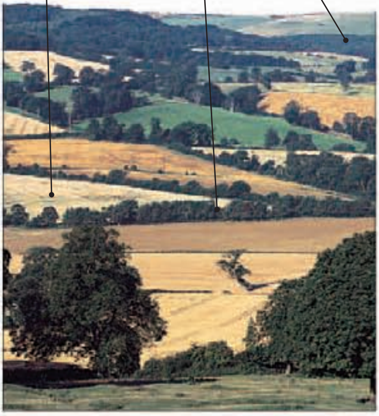
Swallows, *swifts and house martins are all summer visitors.*

Kestrels *are small falcons that prey on mammals such as voles.*

Rabbits *are often spotted feeding at the edge of fields or near woods.*

Robins, *common in gardens and hedgerows, have distinctive red breast feathers.*

Foxes, *little bigger than domestic cats, live in hideaways in woods, near farmland.*



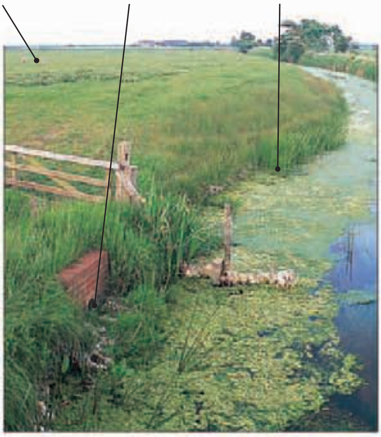
Cereal crops ripen in small fields.

Hedgerows provide refuge for wildlife.

Small mixed woods break up the field pattern.

TRADITIONAL FIELDS

The patchwork fields here in the Cotswolds *(see p304)* reflect generations of small-scale farming. A typical farm would produce silage, hay and cereal crops, and keep a few dairy cows and sheep in enclosed pastures. The tree-dotted hedgerows mark boundaries that may be centuries old.



Sheep graze on salty marshes.

Culverts drain water from the field.

Reed beds edge the water.

MARSHLAND

Flat and low-lying wetlands, criss-crossed with dykes and drainage canals, provide the scenery of Romney Marsh *(see also p182)* as well as much of East Anglia. Some areas have rich, peaty soil for crops, or salty marshland for sheep, but there are extensive uncultivated sections, where reed beds shelter wildlife.

The oxeye daisy *is a larger relative of the common white daisy, found in grassland from spring to late summer.*

Orchids *are among the rarer wild flowers. This species is the Common Spotted Orchid.*

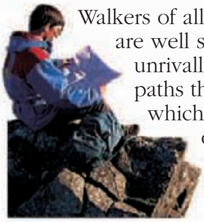
Cowslips *belong to the primrose family. In spring they are often found in the grass on open meadowlands.*

Sea lavender *is a saltmarsh plant that is tolerant of saline soils. It flowers in late summer.*

Poppies *glow brilliant red in cornfields.*

Buttercups *are among the most common wild flowers. They brighten meadows in summer.*

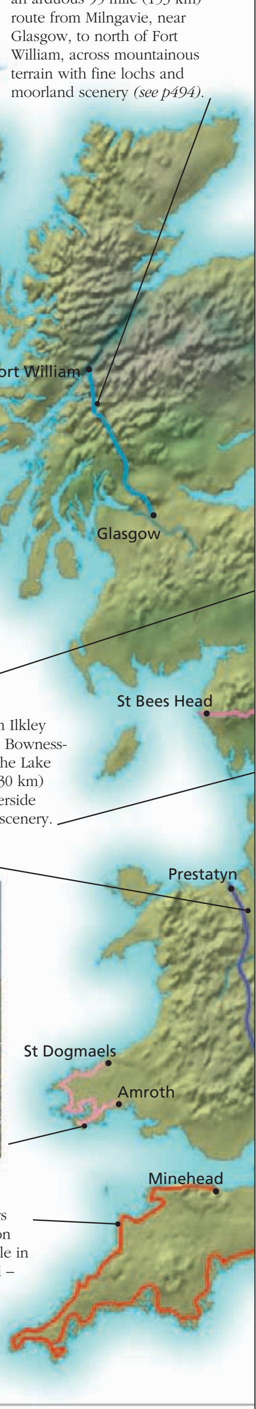
Walkers' Britain



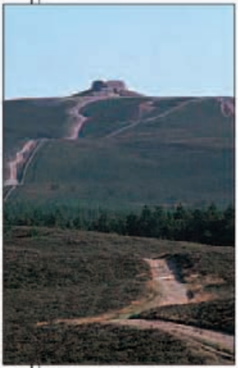
Walker resting on Scafell Pike, Lake District

Walkers of all levels of ability and enthusiasm are well served in Britain. There is an unrivalled network of long-distance paths through some spectacular scenery, which can be tackled in stages with overnight stays en route, or dipped into for a single day's walking. For shorter walks, Britain is dotted with signposts showing public footpaths across common or private land. You will find books of walk routes in local shops and a large map will keep you on track. Choose river routes for easy walking or take to the hills for a greater challenge.

The West Highland Way is an arduous 95 mile (153 km) route from Milngavie, near Glasgow, to north of Fort William, across mountainous terrain with fine lochs and moorland scenery *(see p494).*



The Pennine Way *was Britain's first designated long-distance path. The 268 mile (431 km) route from Edale in Derbyshire to Kirk Yetholm on the Scottish border is a challenging upland hike, with long, lonely stretches of moorland. It is only for experienced hill walkers.*



Offa's Dyke Footpath *follows the boundary between Wales and England. The 168 mile (270 km) path goes through the beautiful Wye Valley* (see p461) *in the Welsh borders.*

Dales Way runs from Ilkley in West Yorkshire to Bowness-on-Windermere in the Lake District, 81 miles (130 km) of delightful flat riverside walking and valley scenery.

Pembrokeshire Coastal path *is 186 miles (299 km) of rugged cliff-top walking from Amroth on Carmarthen Bay to the west tip of Wales at Cardigan.*

The Southwest Coastal Path offers varied scenery from Minehead on the north Somerset coast to Poole in Dorset, via Devon and Cornwall – in all a marathon 630 mile (1,014 km) round trip.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

The best maps for walkers are published by the Ordnance Survey, the official mapping agency (08456 050505). Out of a wide range of maps the most useful are the *Explorer* series, which include the more popular regions and cover a large area, on a scale of 1:25,000, and the *Landranger* series, on a scale of 1:50;000.

SIGNPOSTS

Long-distance paths are well signposted, some of them with an acorn symbol (or with a thistle in Scotland). Many shorter routes are marked with coloured arrows by local authorities or hiking groups. Local councils generally mark public footpaths with yellow arows. Public bridleways, marked by blue arrows, are paths that can be used by both walkers and horse riders – remember, horses churn up mud. Signs appear on posts, trees and stiles.

TIPS FOR WALKERS

Be prepared: *The weather can change very quickly: dress for the worst. Always take a compass, a proper walking map and get local advice before undertaking any ambitious walking. Pack some food and drink if the map does not show a pub en route.*

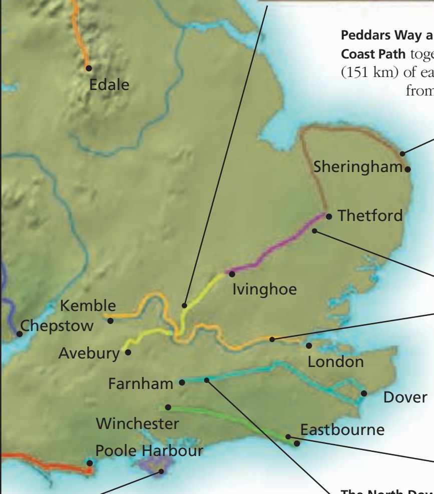
On the walk: *Always keep to the footpath and close gates behind you. Never feed or upset farm animals, leave litter, pick flowers or damage plants.*

Where to stay: *The* International Youth Hostel Federation (see pp670–71) *has a network of hostels which cater particularly for walkers. Bed-and-breakfast accommodation is also available near most routes* (see p553).

Further information: *The* Ramblers' Association (020–7339 8500; www.ramblers.org.uk) *is a national organization for walkers, with a guide to accommodation.*

The Coast to Coast Walk *crosses the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors, on a 190 mile (306 km) route. This demanding walk covers a spectacular range of North Country landscapes. All cross-country routes are best walked from west to east to take advantage of the prevailing wind.*

The Ridgeway *is a fairly easy path that follows an ancient track once used by cattle drovers. Starting near Avebury* (see p263) *it covers 85 miles (137 km) to Ivinghoe Beacon.*



Peddars Way and the Norfolk Coast Path together make 94 miles (151 km) of easy lowland walking, from Thetford, north to the coast then east to Cromer.

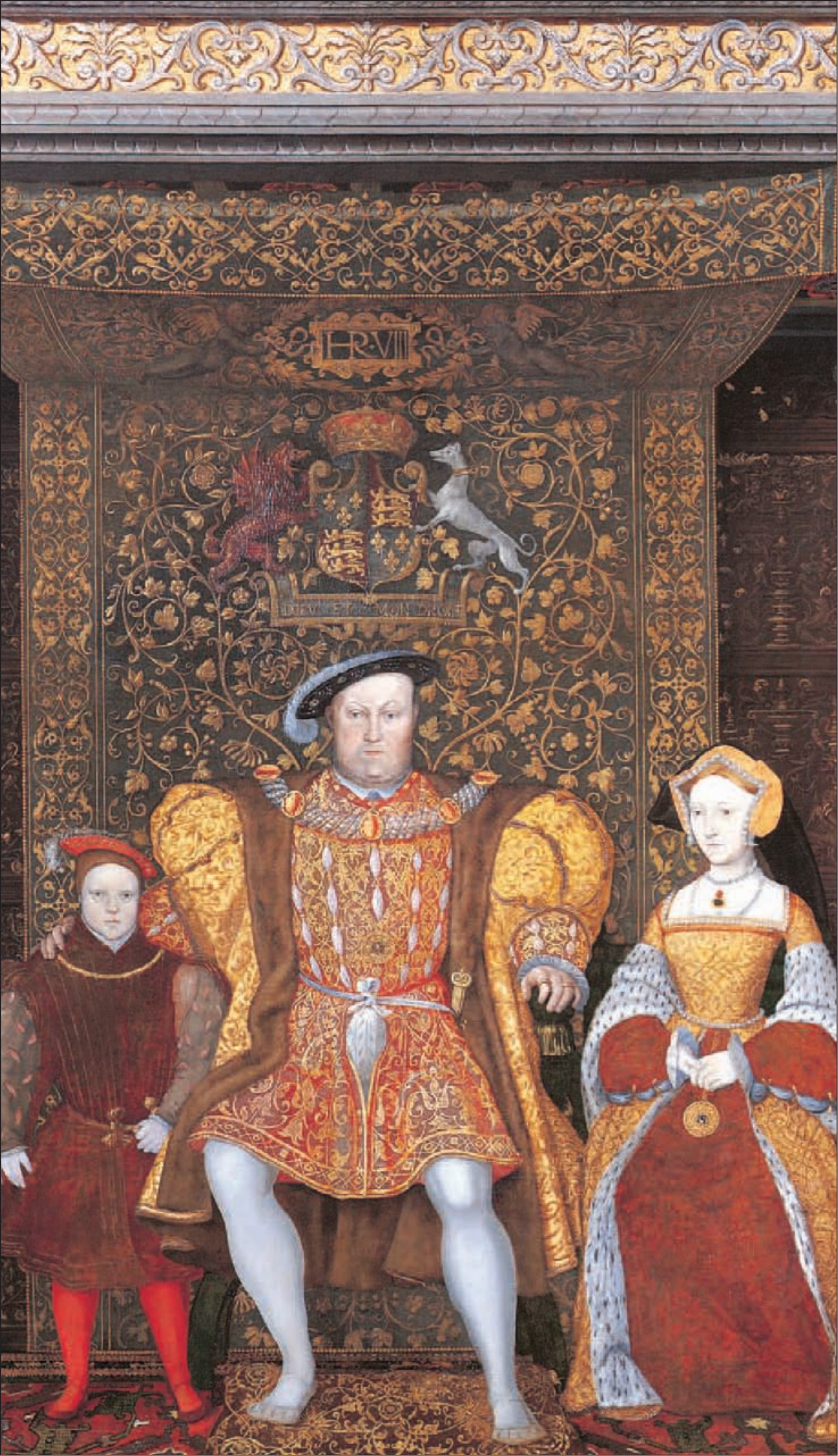
Icknield Way, the most ancient prehistoric road in Britain, is 105 miles (168 km) long and links the Ridgeway to Peddars Way.

The Thames Path follows the river for 213 miles (341 km) from central London to Kemble, its source in Gloucestershire.

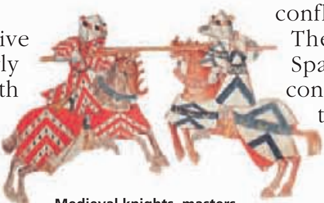
The South Downs Way *is a 101 mile (162 km) walk from Eastbourne on the south coast to Winchester* (see p170–71). *It can be completed in a week.*

The Isle of Wight Coastal Path circles the entire island on an easy 65 mile (105 km) footpath.

The North Downs Way is an ancient route through 141 miles (227 km) of low-lying hills from Farnham in Surrey to Dover or Folkestone in Kent.


H·R·VIII
DIEV ET MON DROIT

THE HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN



Medieval knights, masters of the arts of war

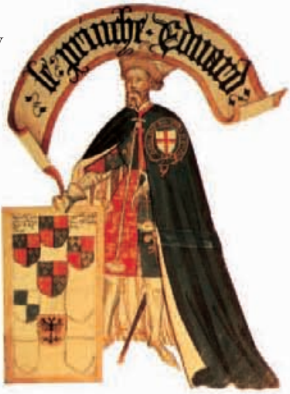
Britain began to assume a cohesive character as early as the 7th century, with the Anglo-Saxon tribes absorbing Celtic and Roman influences and finally achieving supremacy. They suffered repeated Viking incursions and were overcome by the Normans at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Over centuries, the disparate cultures of the Normans and Anglo-Saxons combined to form the English nation, a process nurtured by Britain's position as an island. The next 400 years saw English kings involved in military expeditions to Europe, but their control over these areas was gradually wrested from them. As a result they extended their domain over Scotland and Wales. The Tudor monarchs consolidated this control and laid the foundations for Britain's future commercial success. Henry VIII recognized the vital importance of sea power and under his daughter, Elizabeth I, English sailors ranged far across the world, often coming into conflict with the Spanish. The total defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 confirmed Britain's position as a major maritime power. The Stuart period saw a number of internal struggles, most importantly the Civil War in 1641. But by the time of the Act of the Union in 1707 the whole island was united and the foundations for representative government had been laid. The combination of this internal security with continuing maritime strength allowed Britain to seek wealth overseas. By the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, Britain was the leading trading nation in the world. The opportunities offered by industrialization were seized, and by the late 19th century, a colossal empire had been established across the globe. Challenged by Europe and the rise of the US, and drained by its leading role in two world wars, Britain's influence waned after 1945. By the 1970s almost all the colonies had become independent Commonwealth nations.

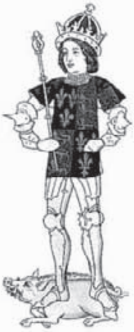
Contemporary map showing the defeat of the Armada (1588), making Britain into a world power

◁ **Henry VIII, founder of the British navy, seen here with his son, Edward, and wife Jane Seymour**

Kings and Queens

All English monarchs since the Norman Conquest in 1066 have been descendants of William the Conqueror. Scottish rulers, until James VI and the Union of Crowns in 1603 *(see pp482–3),* have been more diverse. When the Crown passes to someone other than the monarch's eldest son, the name of the ruling family usually changes. The rules of succession have been precisely laid down and strongly favour men over women, but Britain has still had six queens since 1553. In Norman times the monarchy enjoyed absolute power, but today the position is largely symbolic.





1066–87 William the Conqueror

1087–1100 William II

1100–35 Henry I

1135–54 Stephen

1154–89 Henry II

1189–99 Richard I

1199–1216 John

1216–72 Henry III

1272–1307 Edward I

1307–27 Edward II

1327–77 Edward III

1377–99 Richard II

1399–1413 Henry IV

1413–22 Henry V

1422–61 and 1470–1 Henry VI

1461–70 and 1471–83 Edward IV

1483 Edward V

1483–5 Richard III

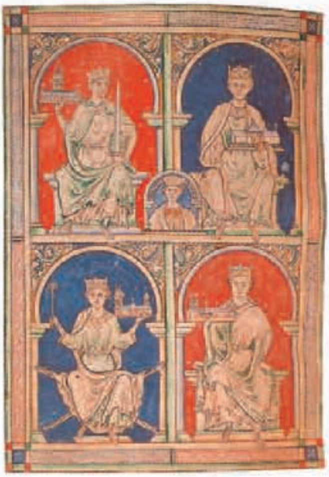
1485–1509 Henry VII

1509–47 Henry VIII

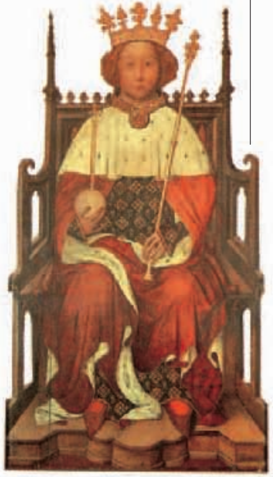
1050 1100 1150 1200 1250 1300 1350 1400 1450 1500

NORMAN PLANTAGENET LANCASTER YORK TUDOR

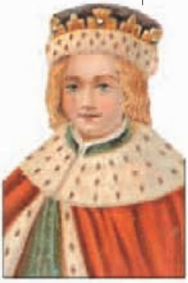
1050 1100 1150 1200 1250 1300 1350 1400 1450 1500



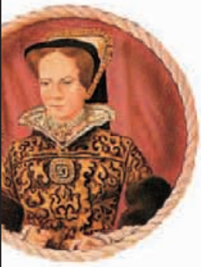
Matthew Paris's 13th-century chronicle showing clockwise from top left, Richard I, Henry II, John and Henry III



1377–99 Richard II



1483 Edward V



1553–8 Mary I

1603–25 James I

1660–85 Charles II

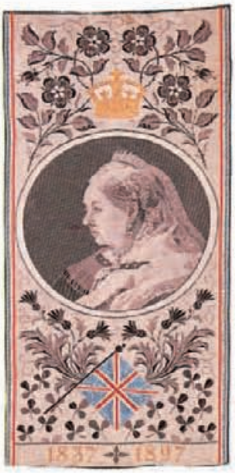
1685–8 James II

1689–1702 William III and Mary II

1702–14 Anne

1714–27 George I

1727–60 George II



1837–1901 Victoria

1901–10 Edward VII

1936 Edward VIII

1952– Elizabeth II

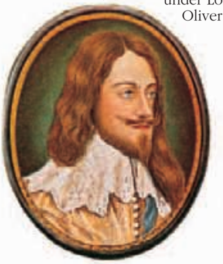
1550 1600 1650 1700 1750 1800 1850 1900 1950 2000

STUART HANOVER SAXE-COBURG WINDSOR

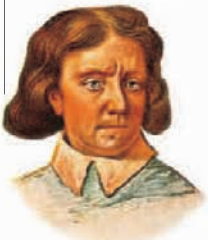
1550 1600 1650 1700 1750 1800 1850 1900 1950 2000

1547–53 Edward VI

1558–1603 Elizabeth I



1625–49 Charles I



1649–60 Commonwealth under Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell

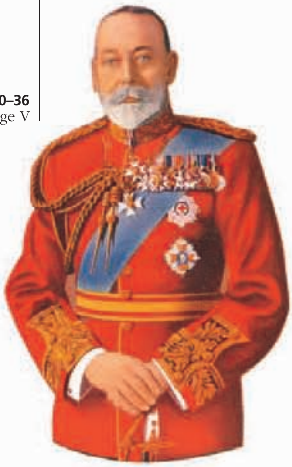
George the III. King of Great Britain

1760–1820 George III

1820–30 George IV

1830–37 William IV

1910–36 George V

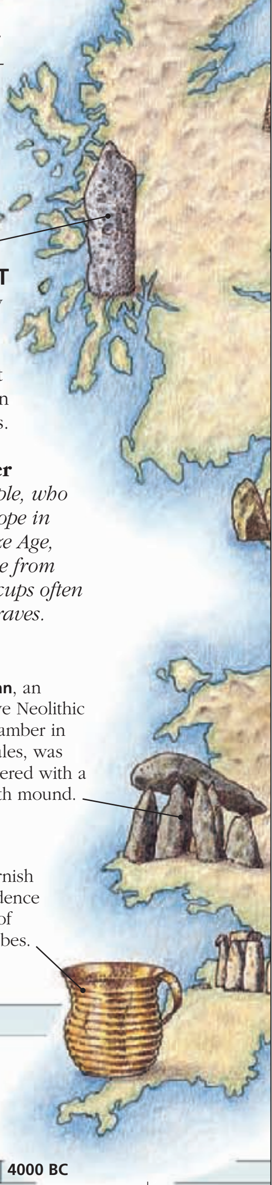


1936–52 George VI shown on the George Medal

Prehistoric Britain

Britain was part of the European landmass until the end of the last Ice Age, around 6000 BC, when the English Channel was formed by melting ice. The earliest inhabitants lived in limestone caves: settlements and farming skills developed gradually through the Stone Age. The magnificent wooden and stone henges and circles are masterworks from around 3000 BC, but their significance is a mystery. Flint mines and ancient pathways are evidence of early trading and many burial mounds (barrows) survive from the Stone and Bronze Ages.

Axe Heads
Stone axes, like this one found at Stonehenge, were used by Neolithic men.



Cup and ring marks were carved on standing stones, such as this one at Ballymeanoch.

MAPPING THE PAST

Monuments from the Neolithic (New Stone), Bronze and Iron Ages, together with artifacts found from these periods, provide a wealth of information about Britain's early settlers, before written history began with the Romans.

Neolithic Tools
Antlers and bones were made into Neolithic leather-working tools. These were found at Avebury (see p263).

Pottery Beaker
The Beaker People, who came from Europe in the early Bronze Age, take their name from these drinking cups often found in their graves.

Gold Breast Plate
Made by Wessex goldsmiths, its spectacular pattern suggests it belonged to an important chieftain.

Pentre Ifan, an impressive Neolithic burial chamber in South Wales, was once covered with a huge earth mound.

Mold Cape
Gold was mined in Wales and Cornwall in the Bronze Age. This intricately worked warrior's cape was buried in a grave at Mold, Clwyd.

This gold cup, found in a Cornish barrow, is evidence of the wealth of Bronze Age tribes.

TIMELINE

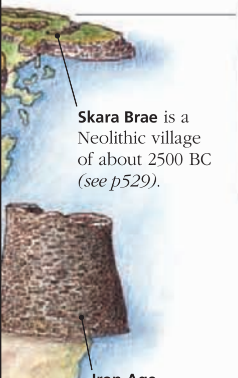
6000–5000 As the Ice Age comes to an end, sea levels rise, submerging the land-link between Britain and the Continent

Neolithic flint axes

6000 BC | **5500 BC** | **5000 BC** | **4500 BC** | **4000 BC**

A gold pendant and button (1700 BC), found in Bronze Age graves

3500 Neolithic Age begins. Long barrows and stone circles built around Britain



Skara Brae is a Neolithic village of about 2500 BC *(see p529)*.

Iron Age Brochs, round towers with thick stone walls, are found only in Scotland.

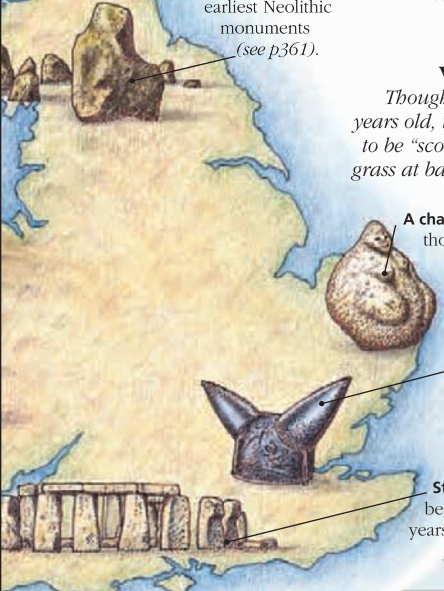
Maiden Castle
An impressive Iron Age hill fort in Dorset, its concentric lines of ramparts and ditches follow the contours of the hill top (see p269).

WHERE TO SEE PREHISTORIC BRITAIN

Wiltshire, with Stonehenge *(p262)* and Avebury *(p263)*, has the best group of Neolithic monuments, and the Uffington White Horse is nearby *(p221)*. The Scottish islands have many early sites and the British Museum *(pp106–7)* houses a huge collection of artefacts.

A circular bank *with over 180 stones encloses the Neolithic site at Avebury* (see p263).

Iron Age Axe
The technique of smelting iron came to Britain around 700 BC, brought from Europe by the Celts.



Castlerigg Stone Circle is one of Britain's earliest Neolithic monuments *(see p361)*.

A chalk figure, thought to be a fertility goddess, was found at Grimes Graves *(see p194)*.

This bronze Celtic helmet (50 BC) was found in the River Thames, London.

Stonehenge was begun around 3,500 years ago *(see pp262–63)*.

Uffington White Horse
Thought to be 3,000 years old, the shape has to be "scoured" to keep grass at bay (see p221).

Snettisham Torc
A torc was a neck ring worn by Celtic men. This one, found in Norfolk, dates from 50 BC and is made from silver and gold.

2500 Temples, or henges, are built of wood or stone

1650–1200 Wessex is at the hub of trading routes between Europe and the mines of Cornwall, Wales and Ireland

1000 First farmsteads are settled

550–350 Migration of Celtic people from southern Europe

500 Iron Age begins. Hill forts are built

3000 BC | 2500 BC | 2000 BC | 1500 BC | 1000 BC | 500 BC

2100–1650 The Bronze Age reaches Britain. Immigration of the Beaker People, who make bronze implements and build ritual temples

Chieftain's bronze sceptre (1700 BC)

1200 Small, self-sufficient villages start to appear

150 Tribes from Gaul begin to migrate to Britain

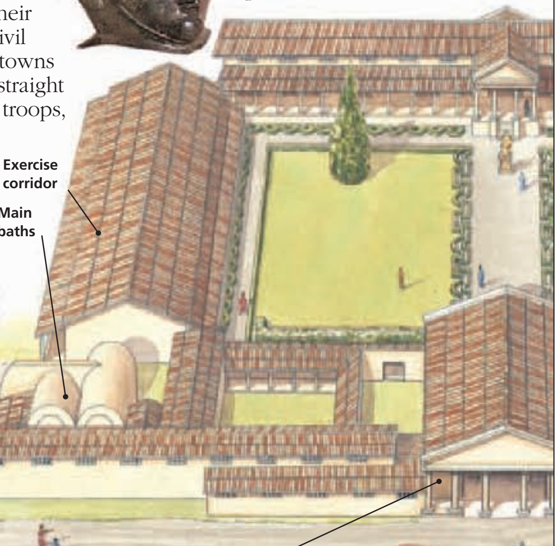
Roman Britain

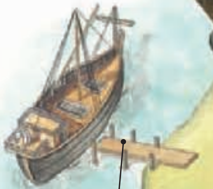
Throughout the 350-year Roman occupation, Britain was ruled as a colony. After the defeat of rebellious local tribes, such as Boadicea's Iceni, the Romans remained an unassimilated occupying power. Their legacy is in military and civil construction: forts, walls, towns and public buildings. Their long, straight roads, built for easy movement of troops, are still a feature of the landscape.

Roman jasper seal

Cavalry Sports Helmet
Found in Lancashire, it was used in tournaments by horsemen. Cavalry races and other sports were held in amphitheatres near towns.

Silver Jug
This 3rd-century jug, the earliest known silver item with Christian symbols, was excavated near Peterborough.





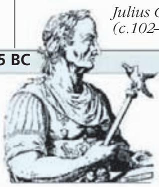
Fishbourne Palace was built at the site of a natural harbour and ships could moor here.

Hadrian's Wall
Started in 120 as a defence against the Scots; it marked the northern frontier of the Roman Empire and was guarded by 17 forts housing over 18,500 foot-soldiers and cavalry.

Mithras
This head of the god Mithras was found on the London site of a temple devoted to the cult of Mithraism. The sect demanded of its Roman followers loyalty and discipline.

TIMELINE

54 BC Julius Caesar lands in Britain but withdraws



Julius Caesar (c.102–44 BC)

55 BC

AD 1

AD 43 Claudius invades; Britain becomes part of the Roman Empire

AD 61 Boadicea rebels against Romans and burns their towns, including St Albans and Colchester, but is defeated *(see p195)*

AD 50

AD 70 Romans conquer Wales and the North

AD 78–84 Agricola advances into Scotland, then retreats

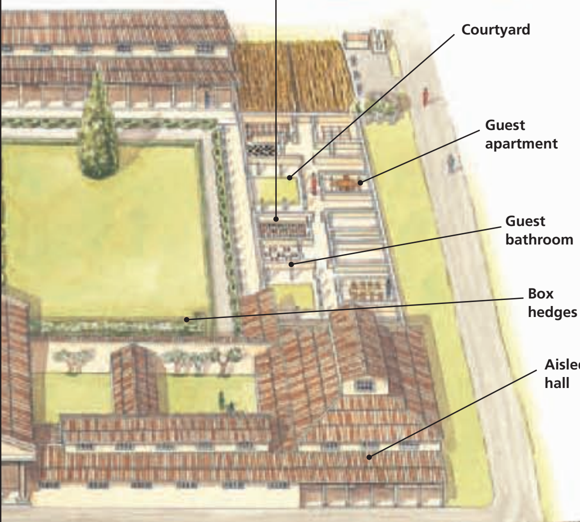
Boadicea (1st century), Queen of the Iceni

120 Emperor Hadrian builds a wall on the border with Scotland

140–143 Romans occupy southern Scotland and build Antonine Wall to mark the frontier

150

Flavian Mosaic
Roman floors of the 1st century used patterns in black and white stone. More mosaics survive at Fishbourne than at any other British site.



FISHBOURNE PALACE

Built during the 1st century for Togidubnus, a pro-Roman governor, the palace (here reconstructed) had sophisticated functions such as under-floor heating and indoor plumbing for baths *(see p171).*

WHERE TO SEE ROMAN BRITAIN

Many of Britain's main towns and cities were established by the Romans and have Roman remains, including York *(see pp404–09),* Chester *(see pp310–11),* St Albans *(see p232),* Colchester *(see p205),* Bath *(see pp258–61),* Lincoln *(see pp340–41)* and London *(see pp70–155).* Several Roman villas were built in southern England, favoured for its mild climate and proximity to Europe.

The Roman baths in Bath (see pp258–61), *known as Aquae Sulis, were built between the 1st and 4th centuries around a natural hot spring.*

Battersea Shield
Found in the Thames near Battersea, the shield bears Celtic symbols and was probably made at about the time of the first Roman invasion. Archaeologists suspect it may have been lost by a warrior while crossing the river, or offered as a sacrifice to one of the many river gods. It is now at the British Museum (see pp106–7).

Chi-Rho Symbol
This early Christian symbol is from a 3rd-century fresco at Lullingstone Roman villa in Kent.

206 Tribes from northern Scotland attack Hadrian's Wall

209 Septimius Severus arrives from Rome with reinforcements

254 St Alban is beheaded, and becomes Britain's first Christian martyr

306 Roman troops in York declare Constantine emperor

350–69 Border raids by Picts and Scots

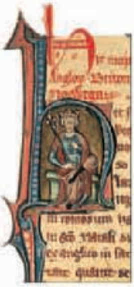
Aberlemno Pictish stone in Scotland

410 Romans withdraw from Britain

440–450 Invasions of Angles, Saxons and Jutes

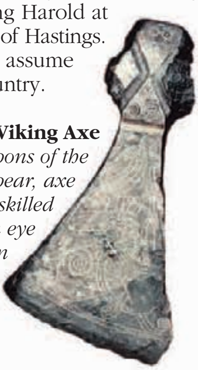
200 250 300 350 400

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms



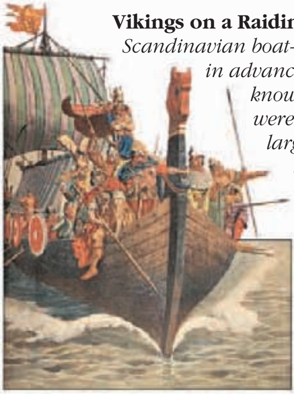
King Canute (1016–35)

By the mid-5th century, Angles and Saxons from Germany had started to raid the eastern shores of Britain. Increasingly they decided to settle, and within 100 years Saxon kingdoms, including Wessex, Mercia and Northumbria, were established over the entire country. Viking raids throughout the 8th and 9th centuries were largely contained, but in 1066, the last invasion of England saw William the Conqueror from Normandy defeat the Anglo-Saxon King Harold at the Battle of Hastings. William then went on to assume control of the whole country.



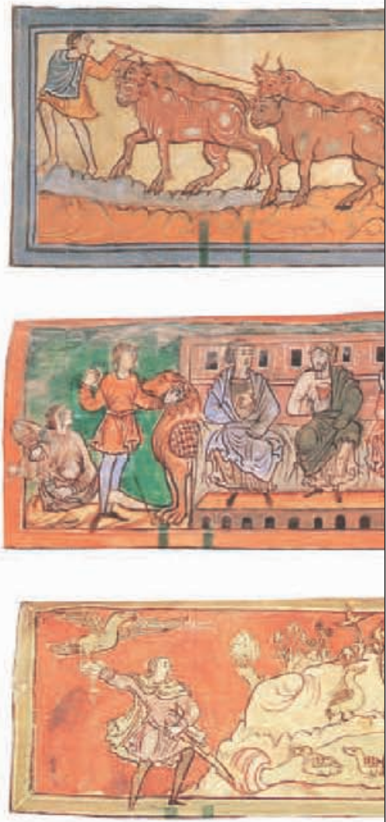
Viking Axe

The principal weapons of the Viking warriors were spear, axe and sword. They were skilled metal-workers with an eye for decoration, as seen in this axe-head from a Copenhagen museum.



Vikings on a Raiding Expedition

Scandinavian boat-building skills were in advance of anything known in Britain. People were terrified by these large, fast boats with their intimidating figureheads, which sailed up the Thames and along the coasts.



ANGLO-SAXON CALENDAR

These scenes from a chronicle of seasons, made just before the Norman invasion, show life in late Anglo-Saxon Britain. At first people lived in small farming communities, but by the 7th century towns began to spring up and trade increased. Saxon kings were supported by nobles but most of the population were free peasants.

TIMELINE

c.470–495 Saxons and Angles settle in Essex, Sussex and East Anglia

c.556 Saxons move across Britain and set up seven kingdoms

St Augustine (d.604)

635 St Aidan establishes a monastery on Lindisfarne

730–821 Supremacy of Mercia, whose king, Offa (d.796), builds a dyke along the Mercia–Wales border

450 | 500 | 550 | 600 | 650 | 700 | 750

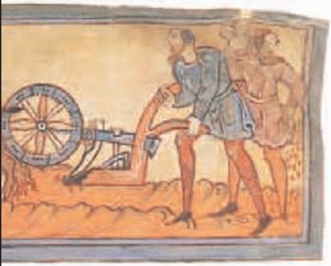
450 Saxons first settle in Kent

563 St Columba lands on Iona

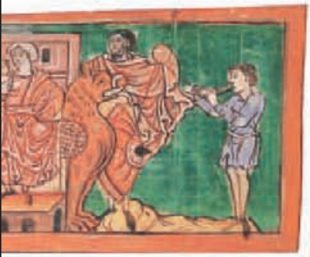
597 St Augustine sent by Rome to convert English to Christianity

617–85 Supremacy of Northumbrian kingdom

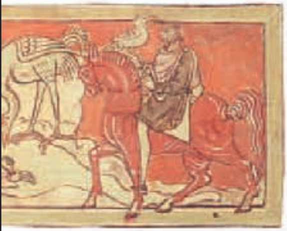
Mercian coin which bears the name of King Offa



Ox-drawn plough for tilling



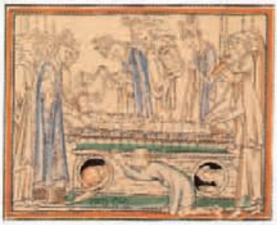
Minstrels entertaining at a feast



Hawks, used to kill game

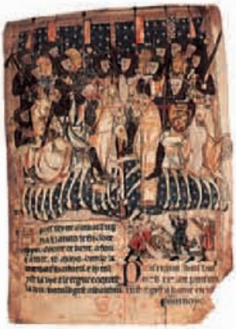
Alfred Jewel

This 9th-century gold ornament in the Ashmolean Museum (see p224) *has the inscription: "Alfred ordered me made". This may refer to the Saxon King Alfred.*



Edward the Confessor

In 1042, Edward – known as "the Confessor" because of his piety – became king. He died in 1066 and William of Normandy claimed the throne.



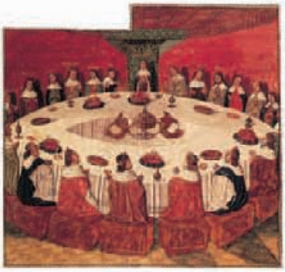
Harold's Death

This 14th-century illustration depicts the victorious William of Normandy after King Harold was killed with an arrow in his eye. The Battle of Hastings (see p181) *was the last invasion of Britain.*

WHERE TO SEE ANGLO-SAXON BRITAIN

The best collection of Saxon artefacts is from a burial ship unearthed at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk in 1938 and now on display at the British Museum *(see pp106–7)*. There are fine Saxon churches at Bradwell in Essex and Bosham in Sussex *(see p171)*. In York the Viking town of Jorvik has been excavated *(see p408)* and actual relics are shown alongside models of people and dwellings.

The Saxon church *of St Laurence* (see p255) *was built in the late 8th century.*



Legend of King Arthur

Arthur is thought to have been a chieftain who fought the Saxons in the early 6th century. Legends of his knights' exploits appeared in 1155 (see p285).

An invading Norman ship

c.793 Lindisfarne sacked by Viking invaders; first Viking raid on Scotland about a year later

802–839 After the death of Cenwulf (821), Wessex gains control over most of England

843 Kenneth McAlpin becomes king of all Scotland

867 Northumbria falls to the Vikings

878 King Alfred defeats Vikings but allows them to settle in eastern England

926 Eastern England, the Danelaw, is reconquered by the Saxons

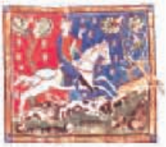
1016 Danish King Canute *(see p171)* seizes English crown

1042 The Anglo-Saxon Edward the Confessor becomes king (d.1066)

1066 William of Normandy claims the throne, and defeats Harold at the Battle of Hastings. He is crowned at Westminster

800 850 900 950 1000 1050 1100

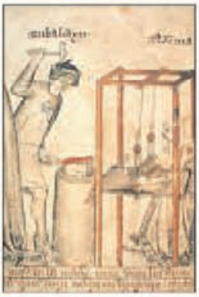
The Middle Ages



Noblemen stag hunting

Remains of Norman castles on English hill tops bear testimony to the military might used by the invaders to sustain their conquest – although Wales and Scotland resisted for centuries. The Normans operated a feudal system, creating an aristocracy that treated native Anglo-Saxons as serfs. The ruling class spoke French until the 13th century, when it mixed with the Old English used by the peasants. The medieval church's power is shown in the cathedrals that grace British cities today.

Magna Carta
To protect themselves and the church from arbitrary taxation, the powerful English barons compelled King John to sign a "great charter" in 1215 (see p235). *This laid the foundations for an independent legal system.*



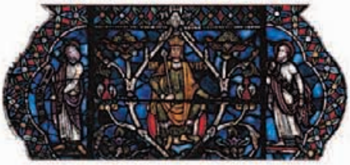
Craft Skills
An illustration from a 14th-century manuscript depicts a weaver and a copper-beater – two of the trades that created a wealthy class of artisans.

MURDER OF THOMAS BECKET

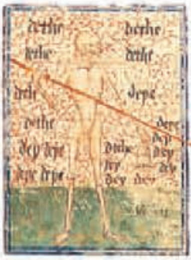
Becket is received into heaven.

Henry II's knights murder Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

The struggle between church and king for ultimate control of the country was brought to a head by the murder of Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. After Becket's canonization in 1173, Canterbury became a major centre of pilgrimage.



Ecclesiastical Art
Nearly all medieval art had religious themes, such as this window at Canterbury Cathedral (see pp186–7) *depicting Jeroboam.*



Black Death
A plague swept Britain and Europe several times in the 14th century, killing millions of people. This illustration, in a religious tract, produced around 100 years later, represents death taking its heavy toll.

TIMELINE

1071 Hereward the Wake, leader of the Anglo-Saxon resistance, defeated at Ely

1154 Henry II, the first Plantagenet king, demolishes castles, and exacts money from barons instead of military service

1170 Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas à Becket, is murdered by four knights after quarrelling with Henry II

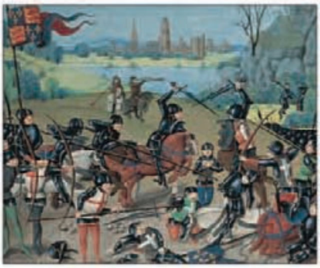
1100 1150 1200 1250

1086 The *Domesday Book*, a survey of every manor in England, is compiled for tax purposes

Domesday Book

1215 Barons compel King John to sign the *Magna Carta*

1256 First Parliament to include ordinary citizens

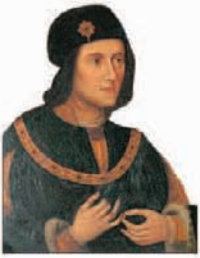


Battle of Agincourt
In 1415, Henry V took an army to France to claim its throne. This 15th-century chronicle depicts Henry beating the French army at Agincourt.

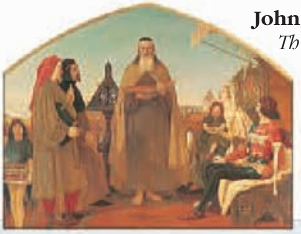
This casket (1190), in a private collection, is said to have contained Becket's remains.

Becket takes his place in Heaven after his canonization.

Two clergymen look on in horror at Becket's murder.



Richard III
Richard, shown in this 16th-century painting, became king during the Wars of the Roses: a bitter struggle for power between two factions of the royal family – the houses of York and Lancaster.

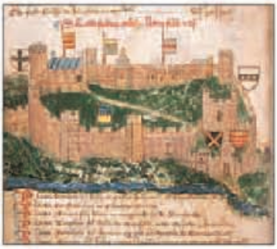


John Wycliffe *(1329–84)*
This painting by Ford Madox Brown (1821–93) shows Wycliffe with the Bible he translated into English to make it accessible to everyone.

WHERE TO SEE MEDIEVAL BRITAIN

The university cities of Oxford *(pp222–27)* and Cambridge *(pp210–15)* contain the largest concentrations of Gothic buildings. Magnificent cathedrals rise high above many historic cities, among them Lincoln *(pp340–41)* and York *(pp404–09)*. Both cities still retain at least part of their ancient street pattern. Military architecture is best seen in Wales *(pp438–9)* with the formidable border castles of Edward I.

All Souls College *in Oxford* (see p226), *which only takes graduates, is a superb blend of medieval and later architecture.*



Castle Life
Every section of a castle was allotted to a baron whose soldiers helped defend it. This 14th-century illustration shows the coats of arms (see p30) *of the barons for each area.*

1282–3 Edward I conquers Wales

1296 Edward I invades Scotland but Scots resist stoutly

Edward I (1239–1307)

1314 Scots defeat English at the Battle of Bannockburn *(see p482)*

1348 Europe's population halved by Black Death

1381 Peasants' revolt after the imposition of a poll tax on everyone in the country over 14

1387 Chaucer starts writing the *Canterbury Tales (see p186)*

Geoffrey Chaucer (c.1345–1400)

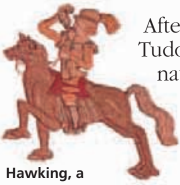
1415 English victory at Agincourt

1453 End of Hundred Years' War against France

1485 Battle of Bosworth ends Wars of the Roses

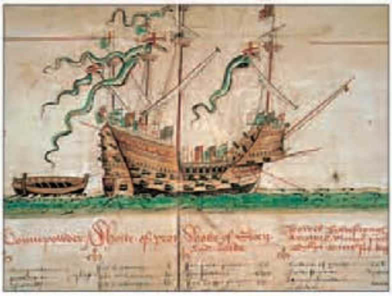
1300
1350
1400
1450

Tudor Renaissance



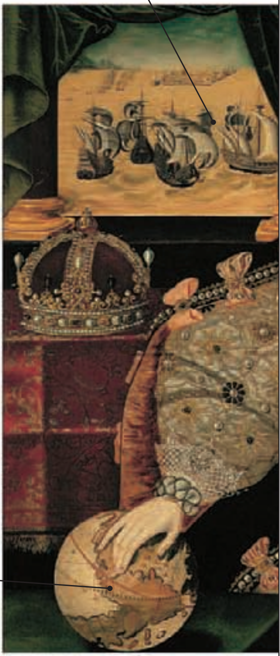
Hawking, a popular pastime

After years of debilitating civil war, the Tudor monarchs established peace and national self-confidence, reflected in the split from the church of Rome – due to Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon – and the consequent closure of the monasteries. Henry's daughter, Mary I, tried to re-establish Catholicism but under her half-sister, Elizabeth I, the Protestant church secured its position. Overseas exploration began, provoking clashes with other European powers seeking to exploit the New World. The Renaissance in arts and learning spread from Europe to Britain, with playwright William Shakespeare adding his own unique contribution.



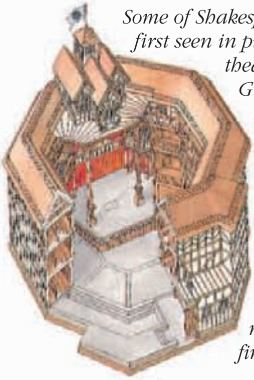
Sea Power

Henry VIII laid the foundations of the powerful English navy. In 1545, his flagship, the Mary Rose (see p169), *sank before his eyes in Portsmouth harbour on its way to do battle with the French.*



Curtains behind the queen are open to reveal scenes of the great English victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588.

The globe signifies that the queen reigns supreme far and wide.



Theatre

Some of Shakespeare's plays were first seen in purpose-built theatres such as the Globe (see p120) *in south London.*

Monasteries

With Henry VIII's split from Rome, England's religious houses, like Fountains Abbey (see pp390–91), *were dissolved. Henry stole their riches and used them to finance his foreign policy.*

TIMELINE

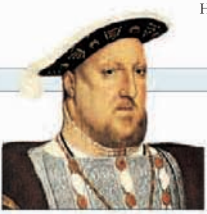
1490

1497 John Cabot *(see p256)* makes his first voyage to North America

1497 John Colet denounces the corruption of the clergy, supported by Erasmus and Sir Thomas More

1510

1513 English defeat Scots at Flodden *(see p482)*



Henry VIII (1491–1547)

1530

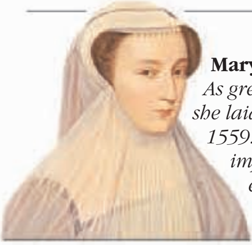
1533–4 Henry VIII divorces Catherine of Aragon and is excommunicated by the Pope. He forms the Church of England

1535 Act of Union with Wales

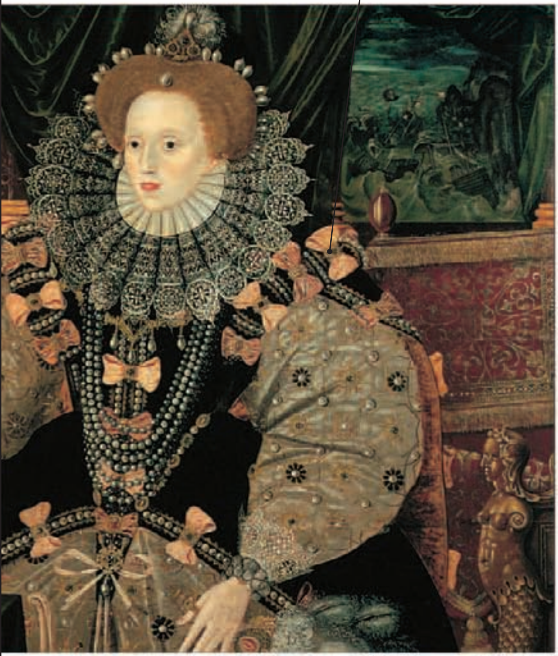
1536–40 Dissolution of the Monasteries

1542–1567 Mary, Queen of Scots rules Scotland

1549 First Book of Common Prayer introduced



Mary, Queen of Scots
As great-granddaughter of Henry VII, she laid claim to the English throne in 1559. But in 1567, Elizabeth I had her imprisoned for 20 years until her execution for treason in 1587.



Jewels symbolize triumph.

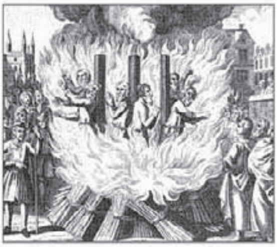
DEFEAT OF THE ARMADA

Spain was England's main rival for supremacy on the seas, and in 1588 Philip II sent 100 powerfully armed galleons towards England, bent on invasion. The English fleet – under Lord Howard, Francis Drake, John Hawkins and Martin Frobisher – sailed from Plymouth and destroyed the Spanish navy in a famous victory. This commemorative portrait of Elizabeth I by George Gower (d.1596) celebrates the triumph.

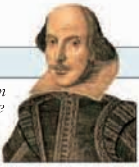
WHERE TO SEE TUDOR BRITAIN

Hampton Court Palace *(p173)* has been altered over the centuries but remains a Tudor showpiece. Part of Elizabeth I's former home at Hatfield *(p231)* still survives. In Kent, Leeds Castle, Knole *(pp188–9)* and Hever Castle *(p189)* all have connections with Tudor royalty. Burghley House *(pp342–3)* and Hardwick Hall *(p302)*, both Midlands mansions, retain their 16th-century character.

This astronomical clock *at Hampton Court* (see p173), *with its intriguing zodiac symbols, was installed in 1540 by Henry VIII.*



Protestant Martyrs
Catholic Mary I reigned from 1553 to 1558. Protestants who opposed her rule were burned, such as these six churchmen at Canterbury in 1555.



William Shakespeare (1564–1616)

1550

1553 Death of Edward VI; throne passes to the Catholic Mary I

1558 Elizabeth I ascends the throne

1559 Mary, Queen of Scots lays claim to English throne

1570

1570 Sir Francis Drake's first voyage to the West Indies

1584 Sir Walter Raleigh tries to colonize Virginia after Drake's first unsuccessful attempt

1587 Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots on the orders of Elizabeth I

1588 Defeat of the Spanish Armada

1590

1591 First play by Shakespeare performed

1600 East India Company founded, beginning British involvement on the Indian continent

Sir Walter Raleigh (1552–1618)

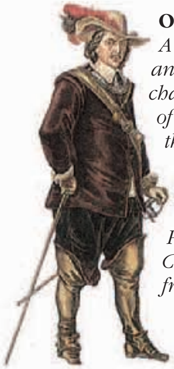
1603 Union of Crowns. James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England

Stuart Britain

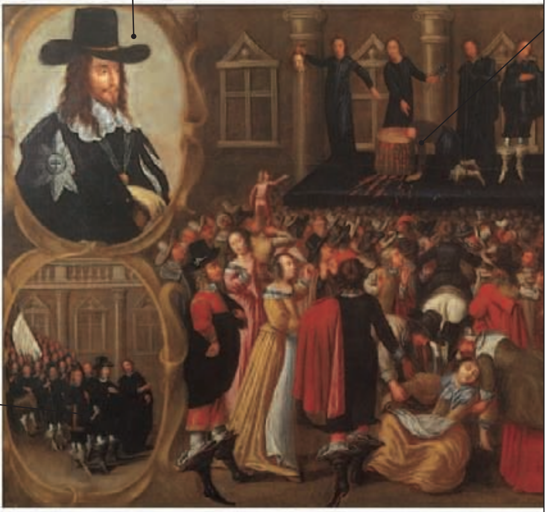
The end of Elizabeth I's reign signalled the start of internal turmoil. The throne passed to James I, whose belief that kings ruled by divine right provoked clashes with Parliament. Under his son, Charles I, the conflict escalated into Civil War that ended with his execution. In 1660 Charles II regained the throne, but after his death James II was ousted for Catholic leanings. Protestantism was reaffirmed with the reign of William and Mary, who suppressed the Catholic Jacobites *(see p483)*.

A 17th-century barber's bowl

Science
Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727) invented this reflecting telescope, laying the foundation for a greater understanding of the universe, including the law of gravity.



Oliver Cromwell
A strict Protestant and a passionate champion of the rights of Parliament, he led the victorious Parliamentary forces in the Civil War. He became Lord Protector of the Commonwealth from 1653 to 1658.

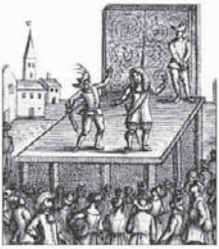


Charles I stayed silent at his trial.

On the way to his death, the king wore two shirts for warmth, so onlookers should not think he was shivering with fright.

EXECUTION OF CHARLES I

Cromwell was convinced there would be no peace until the king was dead. At his trial for treason, Charles refused to recognize the authority of the court and offered no defence. He faced his death with dignity on 30 January 1649, the only English king to be executed. His death was followed by a republic known as the Commonwealth.



Theatre
After the Restoration in 1660, when Parliament restored the monarchy, theatre thrived. Plays were performed on temporary outdoor stages.

TIMELINE

1605 "Gunpowder Plot" to blow up Parliament thwarted

1611 New translation of Bible published, known as King James Version

1614 "Addled Parliament" refuses to vote money for James I

1620 Pilgrim Fathers sail in the *Mayflower* to New England

1625

1638 Scots sign National Covenant, opposing Charles I's Catholic leanings

1642 Civil War breaks out

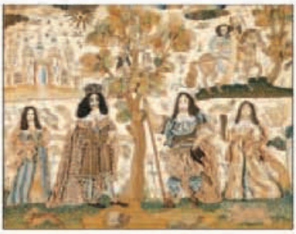
1649 Charles I executed outside Banqueting House and Commonwealth declared by Parliament

1650

1653–8 Cromwell rules as Lord Protector

1660 Restoration of the monarchy under Charles II

James I (1566–1625)

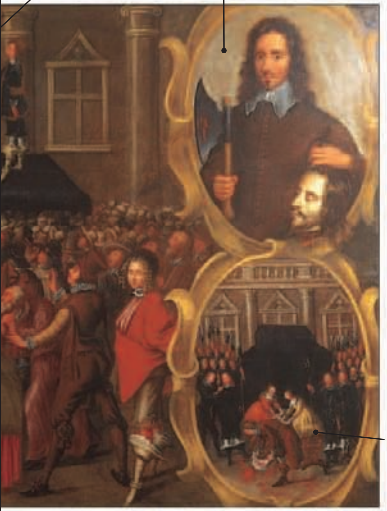


Restoration of the Monarchy
This silk embroidery celebrates the fact that Charles II escaped his father's fate by hiding in an oak tree. There was joy at his return from exile in France.

WHERE TO SEE STUART BRITAIN

The best work of the two leading architects of the time, Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren, is in London, and includes St Paul's Cathedral *(pp114–15)*. In the southeast two classic Jacobean mansions are Audley End *(p208)* and Hatfield House *(p231)*. The Palace of Holyrood *(p510)*, in Edinburgh, is another example.

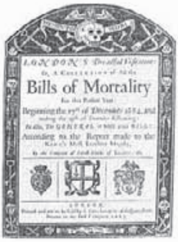
Hatfield House (p231) *is a splendid Jacobean mansion.*



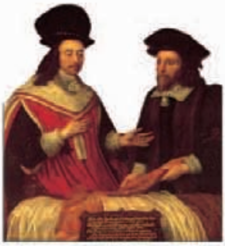
The headless body kneels by the block.

The axeman holds the severed head of Charles I.

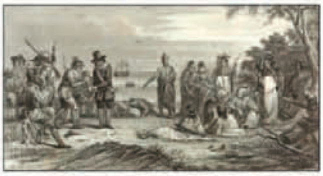
Onlookers soaked up the king's blood with their handkerchiefs to have a memento.


Bills of Mortality

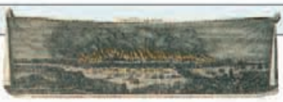
Plague
Bills of mortality showed the weekly deaths as bubonic plague swept London in 1665. Up to 100,000 Londoners died.



Anatomy
By dissecting corpses, physicians began to gain an understanding of the working of the human body – a crucial step towards modern surgery and medicine.



Pilgrim Fathers
In 1620 a group of Puritans sailed to America. They forged good relations with the native Indians; here they are shown being visited by the chief of the Pokanokets.



The Great Fire of London

1665–6 Great Plague

1666 Great Fire of London

1675

1688 The Glorious Revolution: Catholic James II deposed by Parliament

1690 Battle of the Boyne: William's English/Dutch army defeats James II's Irish/French army

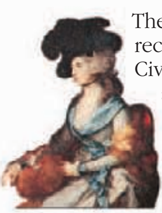
1692 Glencoe Massacre of Jacobites (Stuart supporters) by William III's forces

1700

1707 Act of Union with Scotland

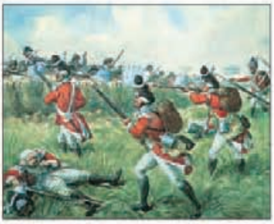
William III (1689–1702)

Georgian Britain

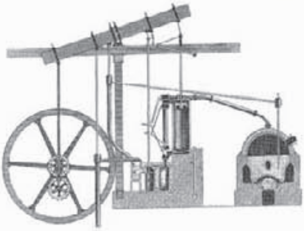


Actress Sarah Siddons (1785), Gainsborough

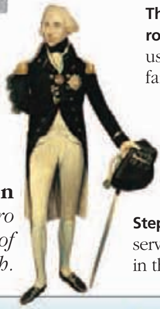
The 18th century saw Britain, now recovered from the trauma of its Civil War, develop as a commercial and industrial powerhouse. London became a centre of banking, and a mercantile and professional class grew up. Continuing supremacy at sea laid the foundations of an empire; steam engines, canals and railways heralded the Industrial Revolution. Growing confidence was reflected in stately architecture and elegant fashions but, as cities became more crowded, conditions for the underclass grew worse.



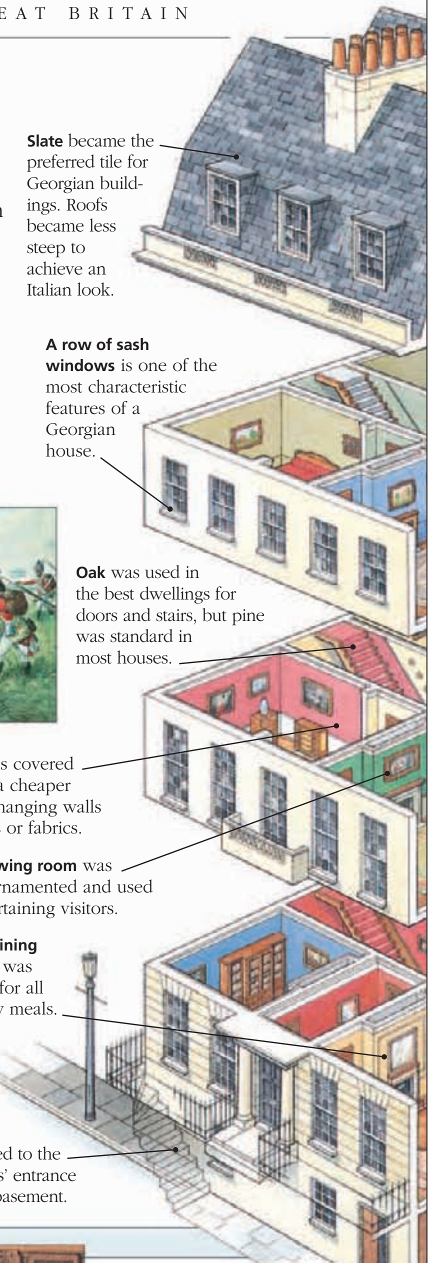
Battle of Bunker Hill
In 1775 American colonists rebelled against British rule. The British won this early battle in Massachusetts, but in 1783 Britain recognized the United States of America.



Watt's Steam Engine
The Scottish engineer James Watt (1736–1819) patented his engine in 1769 and then developed it for locomotion.



Lord Horatio Nelson
Nelson (see p31) *became a hero after his death at the Battle of Trafalgar fighting the French.*



Slate became the preferred tile for Georgian buildings. Roofs became less steep to achieve an Italian look.

A row of sash windows is one of the most characteristic features of a Georgian house.

Oak was used in the best dwellings for doors and stairs, but pine was standard in most houses.

The saloon was covered in wallpaper, a cheaper alternative to hanging walls with tapestries or fabrics.

The drawing room was richly ornamented and used for entertaining visitors.

The dining room was used for all family meals.

Steps led to the servants' entrance in the basement.

TIMELINE

1715 1730 1745 1760

1714 George, Elector of Hanover, succeeds Queen Anne, ending the Stuart dynasty and giving Britain a German-speaking monarch

George I (1660–1727)

1720 "South Sea Bubble" bursts: many speculators ruined in securities fraud

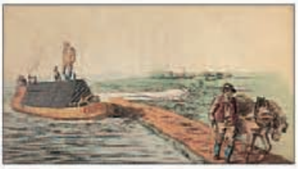
1721 Robert Walpole (1646–1745) becomes the first Prime Minister

The Dutch Bubblers

Satirical engraving about the South Sea Bubble, 1720

1746 Bonnie Prince Charlie *(see p535)*, Jacobite claimant to throne, defeated at the Battle of Culloden

1757 Britain's first canal completed

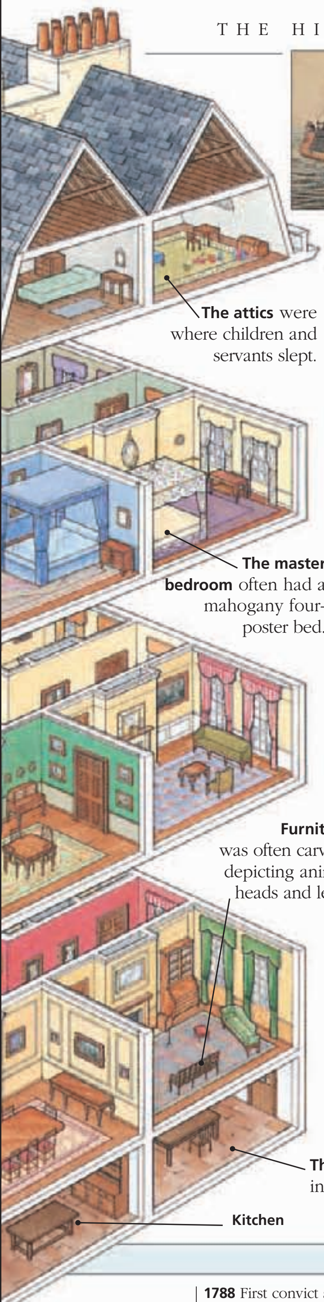


Canal Barge *(1827)*
Canals were a cheap way to carry the new industrial goods but were gradually superseded by railways during the 19th century.

WHERE TO SEE GEORGIAN BRITAIN

Bath *(see pp258–61)* and Edinburgh *(see pp504–11)* are two of Britain's best-preserved Georgian towns. The Building of Bath Museum in Bath *(see p261)* has a real Georgian flavour and Brighton's Royal Pavilion *(see pp178–9)* is a Regency extravaganza by John Nash.

Charlotte Square (see p504) *in Edinburgh has fine examples of Georgian architecture.*



The attics were where children and servants slept.

The master bedroom often had a mahogany four-poster bed.

Furniture was often carved, depicting animal heads and legs.

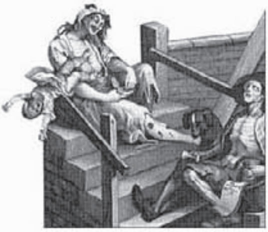
The servants lived and worked in the basement during the day.

Kitchen

Chippendale Armchair *(1760)*
Thomas Chippendale (1718–79) designed elegant furniture in a style still popular today.

GEORGIAN TOWN HOUSE

Tall, terraced dwellings were built to house wealthy families. The main architects of the time were Robert Adam *(see p28)* and John Nash *(see p105)*.



Hogarth's Gin Lane
Conditions in London's slums shocked William Hogarth (1697–1764), who made prints like this to urge social reform.

1775

1776 American Declaration of Independence

1783 Steam-powered cotton mill invented by Sir Richard Arkwright (1732–92)

1788 First convict ships are sent to Australia

1790

1805 The British, led by Lord Nelson, beat Napoleon's French fleet at Battle of Trafalgar

1805

1807 Abolition of slave trade

1811–17 Riots against growing unemployment

1811 Prince of Wales made Regent during George III's madness

1815 Duke of Wellington beats Napoleon at Waterloo

1820

1825 Stockton to Darlington railway opens

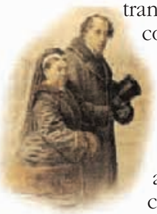
1829 Catholic Emancipation Act passed

Caricature of Wellington (1769–1852)

Silver tureen, 1774

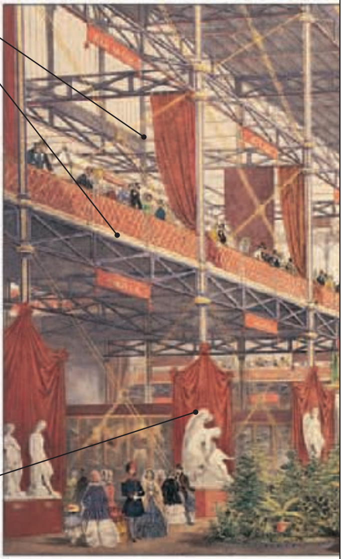
Victorian Britain

When Victoria became Queen in 1837, she was only 18. Britain was in the throes of its transformation from an agricultural country to the world's most powerful industrial nation. The growth of the Empire fuelled the country's confidence and opened up markets for Britain's manufactured goods. The accelerating growth of cities created problems of health and housing and a powerful Labour movement began to emerge. But by the end of Victoria's long and popular reign in 1901, conditions had begun to improve as more people got the vote and universal education was introduced.



Victoria and Disraeli, 1887

Florence Nightingale *(1820–1910)* *Known as the Lady with the Lamp, she nursed soldiers in the Crimean War and pioneered many improvements in army medical care.*



Glass walls and ceiling

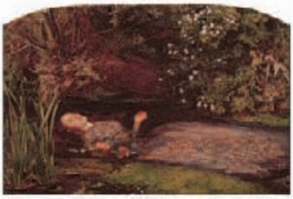
Prefabricated girders

As well as silk textiles exhibits included carriages, engines, jewels, glass, plants, cutlery and sculptures.

Newcastle Slum *(1880)* *Rows of cheap houses were built for an influx of workers to the major industrial cities. The awful conditions spread disease and social discontent.*

UNITED SOCIETY OF BOILERMAKERS
AND IRON AND STEEL SHIPBUILDERS
LONDON DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Union Banner *Trade unions were set up to protect industrial workers against unscrupulous employers.*



Ophelia by Sir John Everett Millais *(1829–96)* *The Pre-Raphaelite painters chose Romantic themes, reflecting a desire to escape industrial Britain.*

TIMELINE

1832 Great Reform Bill extends the vote to all male property owners

1841 London to Brighton railway makes resort accessible

Vase made for the Great Exhibition

1851 Great Exhibition

1867 Second Reform Act gives the vote to all male householders in towns

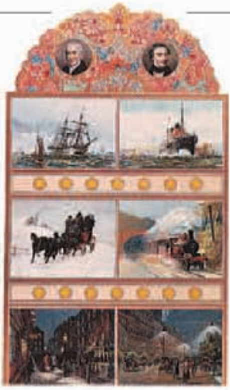
1830 1840 1850 1860

1834 Tolpuddle Martyrs transported to Australia for forming a union

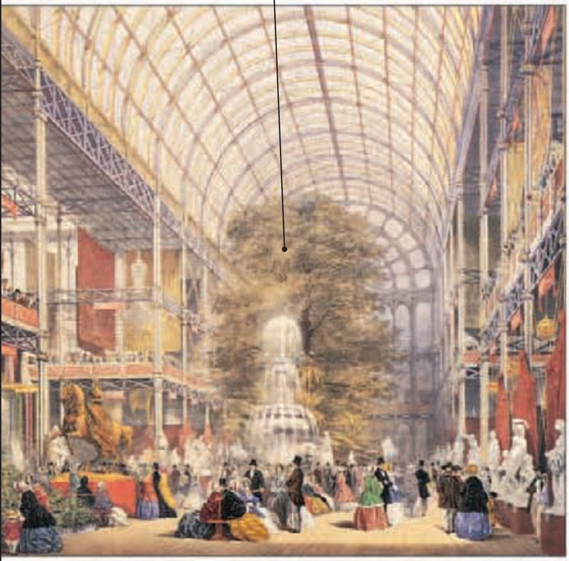
1833 Factory Act forbids employment of children for more than 48 hours per week

1854–6 Britain victorious against Russia in Crimean War

1863 Opening of the London Underground



Triumph of Steam and Electricity
This picture from the Illustrated London News *(1897) sums up the feeling of optimism engendered by industrial advances.*



Elm trees were incorporated into the building along with sparrows, and sparrow hawks to control them.

GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851

The brainchild of Prince Albert, Victoria's consort, the exhibition celebrated industry, technology and the expanding British Empire. It was the biggest of its kind held up until then. Between May and October, six million people visited Joseph Paxton's lavish crystal palace, in London's Hyde Park. Nearly 14,000 exhibitors brought 100,000 exhibits from all over the world. In 1852 it was moved to south London where it burned down in 1936.

WHERE TO SEE VICTORIAN BRITAIN

The industrial cities of the Midlands and the North are built around grandiose civic, commercial and industrial buildings. Notable Victorian monuments include the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry *(see p374)* and, in London, the Victoria and Albert Museum *(see pp98–9)* and St Pancras train station.

The Rotunda, Manchester *is a stately Victorian building.*

Cycling Craze
The bicycle, invented in 1865, became immensely popular with young people, as illustrated by this photograph of 1898.

1870

1870 Education Act makes school compulsory for children up to the age of 11

1872 The Ballot Act introduces secret voting

1874 Benjamin Disraeli becomes Prime Minister

1877 Queen Victoria created Empress of India

1880

1884 Telephones introduced

Early telephone

1890

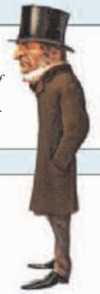
1892 First Labour MP elected

1893 Gladstone's Irish Home Rule Bill defeated

1899–1902 Britain defeats South African Dutch settlers in Boer War

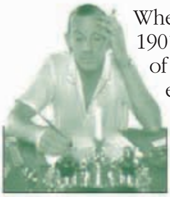
1900

1901 Queen Victoria dies



Cartoon of Gladstone, Vanity Fair *(1869)*

Britain from 1900 to 1950



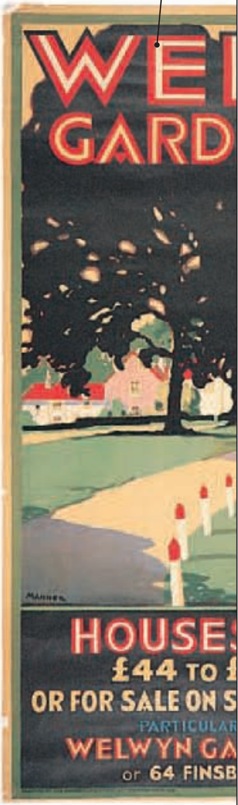
Playwright Noel Coward

When Queen Victoria's reign ended in 1901, British society threw off many of its 19th-century inhibitions, and an era of gaiety and excitement began. This was interrupted by World War I. The economic troubles that ensued, which culminated in the Depression of the 1930s, brought misery to millions. In 1939 the ambitions of Germany provoked World War II. After emerging victorious from this conflict, Britain embarked on an ambitious programme of social, educational and health reform.

VOTES
FOR
WOMEN

Suffragettes
Women marched and chained themselves to railings in their effort to get the vote; many went to prison. Women over 30 won the vote in 1919.

Welwyn Garden City was based on the Utopian ideals of Sir Ebenezer Howard (1850–1928), founder of the garden city movement.



The Roaring Twenties
Young flappers discarded the rigid social codes of their parents and instead discovered jazz, cocktails and the Charleston.

NEW TOWNS

A string of new towns was created on the outskirts of London, planned to give residents greenery and fresh air. Welwyn Garden City was originally founded in 1919 as a self-contained community, but fast rail links turned it into a base for London commuters.

World War I
British troops in Europe dug into deep trenches protected by barbed wire and machine guns, only metres from the enemy, in a war of attrition that cost the lives of 17 million.

Wireless
Invented by Guglielmo Marconi, radios brought news and entertainment into homes for the first time.

TIMELINE

1903 Suffragette movement founded

Henry Asquith (1852–1928), Prime Minister

1905

1908 Asquith's Liberal government introduces old age pensions

1910

1911 MPs are given a salary for the first time, allowing working men to be elected

1914–18 World War I

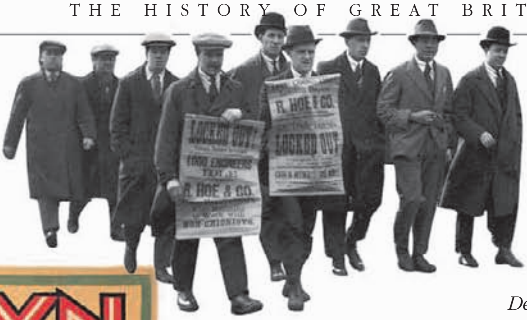
1915

1918 Vote given to all women over 30

1920

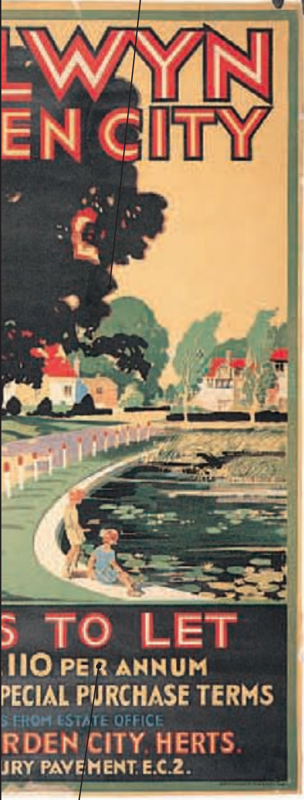
1922 First national radio service begins

1924 First Labour government

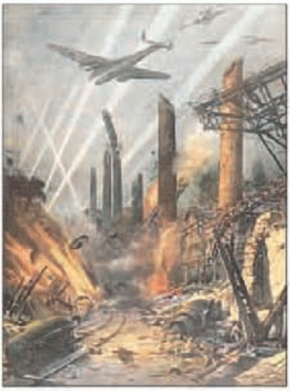

R. HOE & CO.
LOCKED OUT
R. HOE & CO.
LOCKED OUT

Marching for Jobs
These men were among thousands who marched for their jobs after being put out of work in the 1920s. The stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing Depression caused even more unemployment.

Garden cities all had trees, ponds and open spaces.

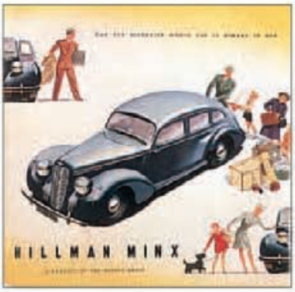


Cheap housing and the promise of a cleaner environment attracted many people to these new cities.



World War II
German night-time air raids targeted transport, military and industrial sites and cities, such as Sheffield, in what was known as the "Blitz".

Modern Homes
Labour-saving devices, such as the vacuum cleaner, invented by William Hoover in 1908, were very popular. This was due to the virtual disappearance of domestic servants, as women took jobs outside the home.



Family Motoring
By the middle of the century, more families could afford to buy mass-produced automobiles, like the 1950s Hillman Minx pictured in this advertisement.

1925 1930 1935 1940 1945

1926 General Strike

Edward VIII (1894–1972) and Wallis Simpson (1896–1986)

1928 Votes for all men and women over 21

1929 Stock market crashes

1936 Abdication of Edward VIII

1936 First scheduled television service begins

1939–45 Winston Churchill leads Britain to victory in World War II

RATION BOOK

Food ration book

1944 Education Act: school leaving age raised to 15; grants provided for university students

1945 Majority Labour government; nationalization of railways, road haulage, civil aviation, Bank of England, gas, electricity and steel

1947 Independence for India and Pakistan

1948 National Health Service introduced

Britain Today

Designer Vivienne Westwood and Naomi Campbell

With the deprivations of war receding, Britain entered the Swinging Sixties, an explosion of youth culture characterized by the mini-skirt and the emergence of pop groups. The Age of Empire came to an end as most colonies gained independence by the 1970s – although Britain went to war again in 1982 when Argentina sought to annexe the tiny Falkland Islands.

People were on the move; immigration from the former colonies enriched British culture – though it also gave rise to social problems – and increasing prosperity allowed millions of people to travel abroad. Britain joined the European Community in 1973, and forged a more tangible link when the Channel Tunnel opened in 1994.

1951 Winston Churchill comes back as Prime Minister as Conservatives win general election

1965 Death penalty is abolished

1960s The miniskirt takes British fashion to new heights of daring – and Flower Power arrives from California

1970s The outlandish clothes, hair and make-up of Punk Rockers shock the country

1981 Charles, Prince of Wales, marries Lady Diana Spencer in "fairytale" wedding at St Paul's Cathedral

1982 British troops set sail to drive the Argentinians from the British-owned Falkland Islands

1950 1960 1970 1980

1950 1960 1970 1980

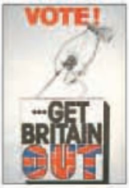
1951 Festival of Britain lifts postwar spirits

1953 Elizabeth II crowned in first televised Coronation

1957 First immigrants arrive from the Caribbean by boat

1959 First motorway, the M1, built from London to the Midlands

1963 The Beatles pop group from Liverpool captures the spirit of the age with numerous chart-topping hits



1973 After years of negotiation, Britain joins the European Community

1975 Drilling begins for North Sea oil

1979 The "Iron Lady" Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first woman Prime Minister; her right-wing Conservative Government privatizes several state-owned industries

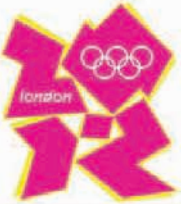
1984 Year-long miners' strike fails to stop pit closures and heralds decline in trade union power

1991 Then Britain's tallest building, Canada Tower *(see p125),* was erected as part of the huge Docklands development – London's financial centre

2005 The Prince of Wales marries Camilla Parker-Bowles at the Guildhall in Windsor

2004 One of London's most distinctive buildings, 30 St Mary Axe, also known as "the Gherkin", opens

2012 Britain is set to host the 2012 Olympic Games



1992 Conservative Government elected for fourth term – a record for this century

2005 London's transport system hit by four bombs in a terrorist attack

1997 New Labour ends 18 years of Conservative government

1990 2000 2010 2020

1990 2000 2010 2020

2007 Gordon Brown takes office as Prime Minister after Tony Blair's resignation

2005 The Labour party is elected for a record third term under Tony Blair

1990 Mrs Thatcher forced to resign by Conservative MPs; replaced by John Major

NOT IN OUR NAME NO TO WAR
NO

2003 Britain joins the US-led coalition in the Iraq war and thousands take to the streets to protest against the imminent invasion

1999 Formation of Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly

1994 Channel Tunnel opens to give direct rail link between Britain and Continental Europe

GREAT BRITAIN THROUGH THE YEAR

38th
LONDON
FILM
FESTIVAL
3/20
Film festival sign

Every British season has its particular charms. Most major sights are open all year round, but many secondary attractions may be closed in winter. The weather is changeable in all seasons and the visitor is as likely to experience a crisp, sunny February day as to be caught in a cold, heavy shower in July. Long periods of adverse weather and extremes of temperature are rare. Spring is characterized by daffodils and bluebells, summer by roses and autumn by the vivid colours of changing leaves. In wintertime, country vistas are visible through the bare branches of the trees. Annual events and ceremonies, many stemming from age-old traditions, reflect the attributes of the seasons.

Bluebells in spring in Angrove woodland, Wiltshire

SPRING

As the days get longer and warmer, the countryside starts to come alive. At Easter many stately homes and gardens open their gates to visitors for the first time, and during the week before Whit Sunday, or Whitsun (the seventh Sunday after Easter), the Chelsea Flower Show takes place. This is the focal point of the gardening year and spurs on the nation's gardeners to prepare their summer displays. Outside the capital, many music and arts festivals mark the middle months of the year.

MARCH

Ideal Home Exhibition *(second week)*, Earl's Court, London. New products and ideas for the home.
Crufts Dog Show, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.
International Book Fair *(third week)*, Olympia, London.
St Patrick's Day *(17 March)*. Musical events in major cities celebrate the feast day of Ireland's patron saint.

Yeomen of the Guard conducting the Maundy money ceremony

APRIL

Maundy Thursday (Thursday before Easter), the Queen gives money to pensioners.
St George's Day *(23 April)*, English patron saint's day.
Antiques for Everyone *(last week)*, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Water garden exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show

MAY

Furry Dancing Festival *(8 May)*, Helston, Cornwall. Spring celebration *(see p280)*.
Well-dressing festivals *(Ascension Day)*, Tissington, Derbyshire *(see p337)*.
Chelsea Flower Show *(May)*, Royal Hospital, London.
Brighton Festival *(last three weeks)*. Performing arts.
Glyndebourne Festival Opera Season *(mid-May–end Aug)*, near Lewes, East Sussex. Opera productions.
International Highland Games *(last weekend)*, Blair Atholl, Scotland.

SUMMER

Life moves outdoors in the summer months. Cafés and restaurants place tables on the pavements and pub customers take their drinks outside. The Queen holds garden parties for privileged guests at Buckingham Palace while, more modestly, village fêtes – which include traditional games and local stalls – are organized. Beaches and swimming pools become crowded and office workers picnic in city parks at lunch. The rose, England's national flower, bursts into bloom in millions of gardens. Cultural treats include open-air theatre performances, outdoor concerts, the Proms in London, the National Eisteddfod in Wales, Glyndebourne's opera festival, and Edinburgh's festival of the performing arts.

Deck chair at Brighton

JUNE

Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions *(Jun–Aug)*. Large and varied London show of new work by many artists.
Bath International Festival *(late May–early Jun)*, various venues. Arts events.
Beaumaris Festival *(27 May–4 Jun)*, various venues. Concerts, craft fairs plus fringe activities.
Trooping the Colour *(Sat closest to 10 Jun)*, Whitehall, London. The Queen's official birthday parade.
Glastonbury Festival *(late June)*, Somerset.
Aldeburgh Festival *(second and third weeks)*, Suffolk. Arts festival with concerts and opera.
Royal Highland Show *(third week)*, Ingliston, near Edinburgh. Scotland's agricultural show.
Leeds Castle *(last week)*. Open-air concerts.
Glasgow International Jazz Festival *(last weekend)*. Various venues.

Assessment of sheep at the Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells

Glastonbury music festival, a major event attracting thousands of people

JULY

Royal Show *(first week)*, near Kenilworth, Warwickshire. National agricultural show.
International Eisteddfod *(first week)*, Llangollen, North Wales. International music and dance competition *(see p450)*.
Hampton Court Flower Show *(early July)*, Hampton Court Palace, Surrey.
Summer Music Festival *(third weekend)*, Stourhead, Wiltshire.
International Henley Royal Regatta *(first week)*, Henley-on-Thames. Rowing regatta on the Thames.
Cambridge Folk Festival *(last weekend)*. Music festival with top international artists.
Royal Welsh Show *(last weekend)*, Builth Wells, Wales. Agricultural show.
International Festival of Folk Arts *(late Jul–early Aug)*, Sidmouth, Devon *(see p289)*.

AUGUST

Royal National Eisteddfod *(early in month)*. Traditional arts competitions, in Welsh *(see p435)*. Various locations.

Reveller in bright costume at the Notting Hill Carnival

Henry Wood Promenade Concerts *(mid-Jul–mid-Sep)*, Royal Albert Hall, London. Famous concert series popularly known as the Proms.
Edinburgh International Festival *(mid-Aug–mid-Sep)*. The largest festival of theatre, dance and music in the world *(see p481)*.
Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Alongside the festival, there are 400 shows a day.
Brecon Jazz *(mid-Aug)*, jazz festival in Brecon, Wales.
Beatles Festival *(last weekend)*, Liverpool. Music and entertainment related to the Fab Four *(see p377)*.
Notting Hill Carnival *(last weekend)*, London. West Indian street carnival with floats, bands and stalls.

Boxes of apples from the autumn harvest

AUTUMN

After the heady escapism of summer, the start of the new season is marked by the various party political conferences held in October and the royal opening of Parliament. All over the country on 5 November, bonfires are lit and fireworks let off to celebrate the foiling of an attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament by Guy Fawkes and his co-conspirators in 1605. Cornfields become golden, trees turn fiery yellow through to russet and orchards are heavy with apples and other autumn fruits. In churches throughout the country, thanksgiving festivals mark the harvest. The shops stock up for the run-up to Christmas, their busiest time of the year.

SEPTEMBER

Blackpool Illuminations *(beg Sep–end Oct)*. A 5 mile (8 km) spectacle of lighting along Blackpool's seafront.

Royal Highland Gathering *(first Sat)*, Braemar, Scotland. Kilted clansmen from all over the country toss cabers, shot putt, dance and play the bagpipes. The royal family usually attends.

International Sheepdog Trials *(14–16 Sep)*, all over Britain, with venues changing from year to year.

Great Autumn Flower Show *(third weekend)*, Harrogate, N Yorks. Displays by nurserymen and national flower organizations.

Oyster Festival *(Sat at beginning of oyster season)*, Colchester. Lunch hosted by the mayor to celebrate the beginning of the much awaited oyster season.

Shot putting at Braemar

Fireworks over Edinburgh on Guy Fawkes Night

OCTOBER

Harvest Festivals *(whole month)*, all over Britain especially in farming areas.

Horse of the Year Show *(6–10 Oct)*, NEC, Birmingham.

Nottingham Goose Fair *(second weekend)*. One of Britain's oldest traditional fairs now has a funfair.

Canterbury Festival *(second and third weeks)*. Music, drama and the arts.

Aldeburgh Britten Festival *(third weekend)*. Concerts with music by Britten *(see p201)* and other composers.

Procession leading to the state opening of Parliament

NOVEMBER

Opening of Parliament *(Oct or Nov)*. The Queen goes from Buckingham Palace to Westminster in a state coach, to open the new parliamentary session.

London Film Festival *(end Oct–beg Nov)*. Forum for new films, various venues.

Lord Mayor's Procession and Show *(second Sat)*. Parade in the City, London.

Remembrance Day *(second Sun)*. Services and parades at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, and all over Britain.

RAC London to Brighton Veteran Car Rally *(first Sun)*. A 7am start from Hyde Park, London to Brighton, East Sussex.

Guy Fawkes Night *(5 Nov)*, fireworks and bonfires all over the country.

Regent Street Christmas Lights *(mid-Nov)*, London.

Winter landscape in the Scottish Highlands, near Glencoe

WINTER

Brightly coloured fairy lights and Christmas trees decorate Britain's principal shopping streets as shoppers rush to buy their seasonal gifts. Carol services are held in churches across the country, and pantomime, a traditional entertainment for children deriving from the Victorian music hall, fills theatres in major towns.

Brightly lit Christmas tree at the centre of Trafalgar Square

Many offices close between Christmas and the New Year. Shops reopen for the January sales on 27 December – a paradise for bargain-hunters.

DECEMBER

Christmas Tree *(first Thu)*, Trafalgar Square, London. The tree is donated by the people of Norway and is lit by the Mayor of Oslo; this is followed by carol singing.
Carol concerts *(whole month)*, all over Britain.
Grand Christmas Parade *(beg Dec)*, London. Parade with floats to celebrate myth of Santa Claus.
Midnight Mass *(24 Dec)*, in churches everywhere around Britain.
Allendale Tarbaal Festival *(31 Dec)*, Northumberland. Parade by villagers with burning tar barrels on their heads to celebrate the New Year.

Sprig of holly

JANUARY

Hogmanay and **New Year** *(31 Dec,1 Jan)*, Scottish celebrations. **Burns Night** *(25 Jan)*. Scots everywhere celebrate poet Robert Burns' birth with poetry, feasting and drinking.

FEBRUARY

Chinese New Year *(late Jan or early Feb)*. Lion dances, firecrackers and processions in Chinatown, London.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day (1 Jan).
2 Jan (Scotland only).
Easter weekend (March or April). In England it begins on **Good Friday** and ends on **Easter Monday**; in Scotland there is no Easter Monday holiday.
May Day (usually first Mon in May).
Late Spring Bank Holiday (last Mon in May).
Bank Holiday (first Mon in August, Scotland only).
August Bank Holiday (last Mon in August, except Scotland).
Christmas and Boxing Day (25– 26 December).

Morris dancing on May Day in Midhurst, Sussex

The Sporting Year

Many of the world's major competitive sports, including soccer, cricket and tennis, were invented in Britain. Originally devised as recreation for the wealthy, they have since entered the arena of mass entertainment. Some, however, such as the Royal Ascot race meeting and Wimbledon tennis tournament, are still valued as much for their social prestige as for the sport itself. Other delightful sporting events in Britain take place at a local level: village cricket, point-to-point racing and the Highland Games are all popular amateur events.

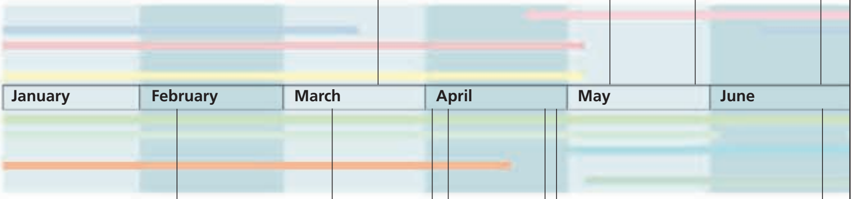
Kelly Holmes

Royal Ascot *is the four-day social highlight of the horse racing year. The high class of the thoroughbreds is matched by the high style of the fashions, with royalty attending.*

Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, *first held in 1829 at Henley, has become a national event, with the two university eights now battling it out between Putney and Mortlake on the Thames.*

The FA Cup Final *is the apex of the football season.*

Derby Day horse races, Epsom



Cheltenham Gold Cup steeplechase *(see p328)*

Grand National steeple-chase, Aintree *(see p376)*, Liverpool

Rugby League Cup Final, Wembley

Embassy World Snooker Championships, Sheffield

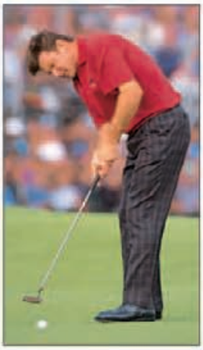
Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Tournment *is the world's most prestigious lawn tennis championship.*

Six Nations Rugby Union *is an annual contest between England, France, Italy, Ireland (left), Scotland (right) and Wales. This league-based competition runs through winter ending in March.*

London Marathon *attracts thousands of long-distance runners, from the world's best to fancy-dressed fund raisers.*

Henley Royal Regatta (see p234) *is an international rowing event on the Thames (first held in 1839). It is also a glamorous social occasion.*

British Grand Prix, *held at Silverstone, is Britain's round of the Formula One World Championship.*



British Open Golf Championship, *a major golf event, is held at one of several British courses. Here, Nick Faldo putts.*

TICKETS AND TOUTS

For many big sporting events, the only official source of tickets is the club concerned. Booking agencies may offer hard-to-get tickets – though often at high prices. Unauthorized touts may lurk at popular events but their expensive tickets are not always valid. Check carefully.

BRITISH GRAND PRIX
BRITISH GRAND PRIX
ADULT

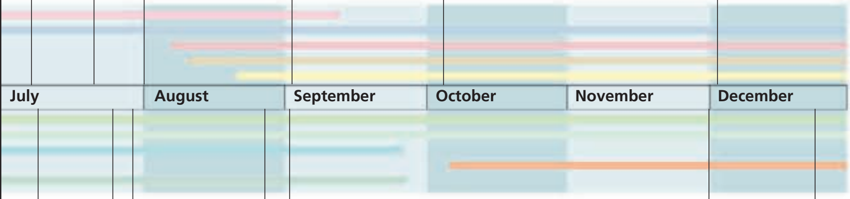
Tickets for the Grand Prix

The Cheltenham and Gloucester Trophy *is the final of a season of competition to find the year's county cricket champions. It takes place at Lord's* (see p155).

Cowes week *(see p168)*, a yachting festival, covers all classes of racing.

Horse of the Year Show brings together top show-jumpers to compete on a tough indoor course *(see p64)*.

Oxford versus Cambridge rugby union, Twickenham



European Show jumping Championships at Hickstead

Braemar Highland Games ***(see p64)***

British Figure Skating and Ice Dance Championships *are a feast of elegance on ice (various venues).*

Winmau World Masters Darts Championships

Gold Cup Humber powerboat race, Hull

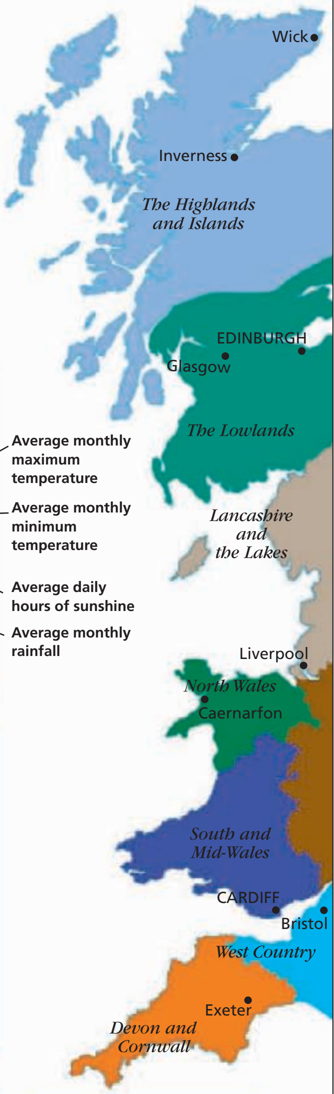
Cartier International Polo, *at the Guards Club, Windsor* (see p235), *is one of the main events for this peculiarly British game, played mainly by royalty and army officers.*

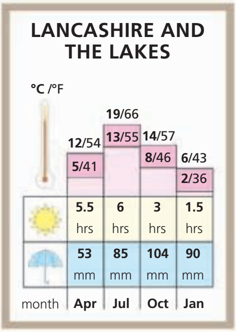
KEY TO SPORT SEASONS

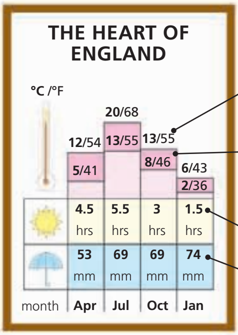
- ▬ Cricket
- ▬ River fishing
- ▬ Football (soccer)
- ▬ Hunting and shooting
- ▬ Rugby (union and league)
- ▬ Flat racing
- ▬ Jump racing
- ▬ Athletics – track and field
- ▬ Road running and cross-country
- ▬ Polo

The Climate of Great Britain

Britain has a temperate climate. No region is far from the sea, which exerts a moderating influence on temperatures. Seldom are winter nights colder than -15°C, even in the far north, or summer days warmer than 30°C in the south and west: a much narrower range than in most European countries. Despite Britain's reputation, the average annual rainfall is quite low – 108 cm (42 inches) – and heavy rain is rare. The Atlantic coast is warmed by the Gulf Stream, making the west slightly warmer, though wetter, than the east.


Wick
Inverness
The Highlands and Islands
EDINBURGH
Glasgow
The Lowlands
Lancashire and the Lakes
Liverpool
North Wales
Caernarfon
South and Mid-Wales
CARDIFF
Bristol
West Country
Exeter
Devon and Cornwall


LANCASHIRE AND THE LAKES

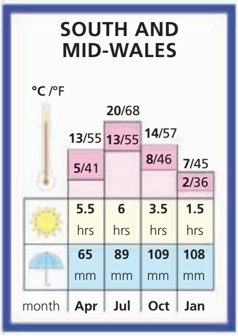

THE HEART OF ENGLAND

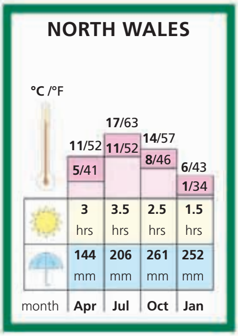
Average monthly maximum temperature

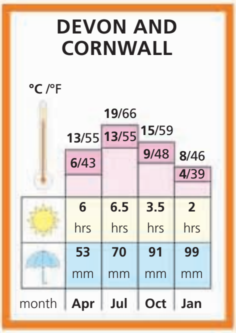
Average monthly minimum temperature

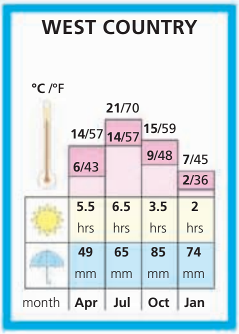
Average daily hours of sunshine

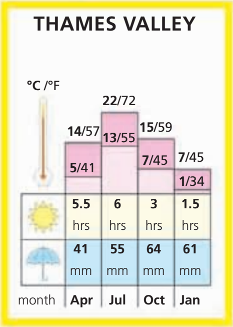
Average monthly rainfall

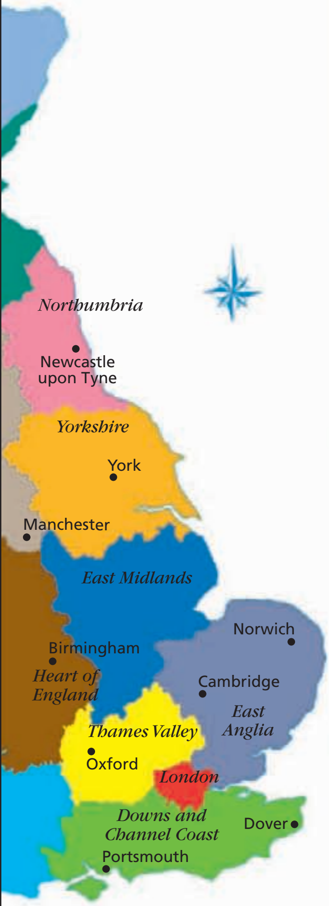

SOUTH AND MID-WALES

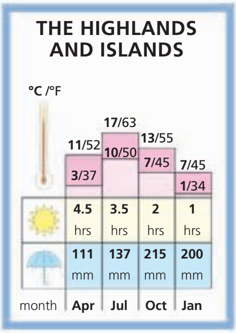

NORTH WALES

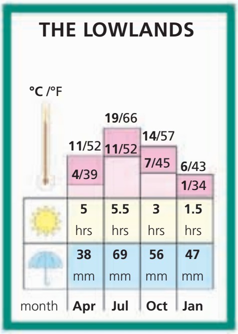

DEVON AND CORNWALL

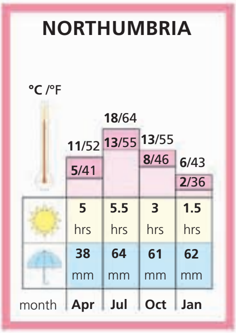

WEST COUNTRY

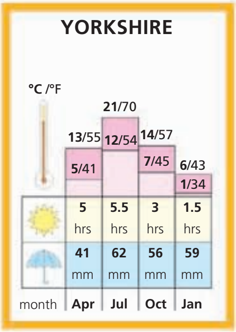

THAMES VALLEY

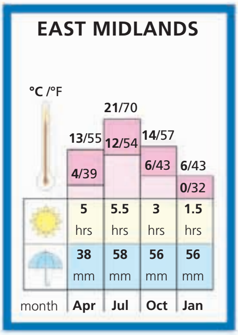

Northumbria
Newcastle upon Tyne
Yorkshire
York
Manchester
East Midlands
Norwich
Birmingham
Heart of England
Cambridge
East Anglia
Thames Valley
Oxford
London
Downs and Channel Coast
Dover
Portsmouth

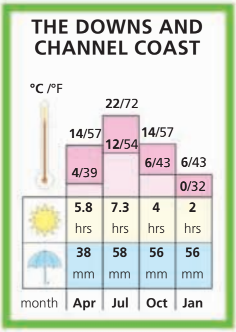

THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS
°C /°F
11/52
3/37
17/63
10/50
13/55
7/45
7/45
1/34
4.5 hrs
3.5 hrs
2 hrs
1 hrs
111 mm
137 mm
215 mm
200 mm
month
Apr
Jul
Oct
Jan

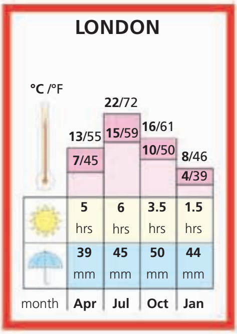

THE LOWLANDS
°C /°F
11/52
4/39
19/66
11/52
14/57
7/45
6/43
1/34
5 hrs
5.5 hrs
3 hrs
1.5 hrs
38 mm
69 mm
56 mm
47 mm
month
Apr
Jul
Oct
Jan

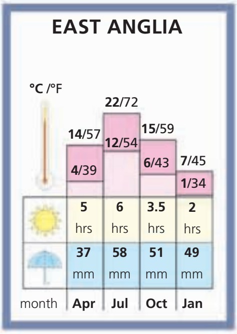

NORTHUMBRIA
°C /°F
11/52
5/41
18/64
13/55
13/55
8/46
6/43
2/36
5 hrs
5.5 hrs
3 hrs
1.5 hrs
38 mm
64 mm
61 mm
62 mm
month
Apr
Jul
Oct
Jan


YORKSHIRE
°C /°F
13/55
5/41
21/70
12/54
14/57
7/45
6/43
1/34
5 hrs
5.5 hrs
3 hrs
1.5 hrs
41 mm
62 mm
56 mm
59 mm
month
Apr
Jul
Oct
Jan


EAST MIDLANDS
°C /°F
13/55
4/39
21/70
12/54
14/57
6/43
6/43
0/32
5 hrs
5.5 hrs
3 hrs
1.5 hrs
38 mm
58 mm
56 mm
56 mm
month
Apr
Jul
Oct
Jan


THE DOWNS AND CHANNEL COAST
°C /°F
14/57
4/39
22/72
12/54
14/57
6/43
6/43
0/32
5.8 hrs
7.3 hrs
4 hrs
2 hrs
38 mm
58 mm
56 mm
56 mm
month
Apr
Jul
Oct
Jan


LONDON
°C /°F
13/55
7/45
22/72
15/59
16/61
10/50
8/46
4/39
5 hrs
6 hrs
3.5 hrs
1.5 hrs
39 mm
45 mm
50 mm
44 mm
month
Apr
Jul
Oct
Jan


EAST ANGLIA
°C /°F
14/57
4/39
22/72
12/54
15/59
6/43
7/45
1/34
5 hrs
6 hrs
3.5 hrs
2 hrs
37 mm
58 mm
51 mm
49 mm
month
Apr
Jul
Oct
Jan

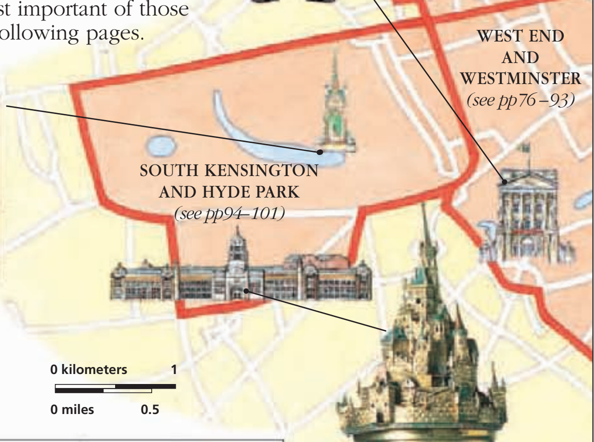
LONDON

INTRODUCING LONDON 72–75
WEST END AND WESTMINSTER 76–93
SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK 94–101
REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY 102–107
THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK 108–121
FURTHER AFIELD 122–126
LONDON STREET FINDER 127–147
SHOPS AND MARKETS 148–151
ENTERTAINMENT IN LONDON 152–155

London at a Glance

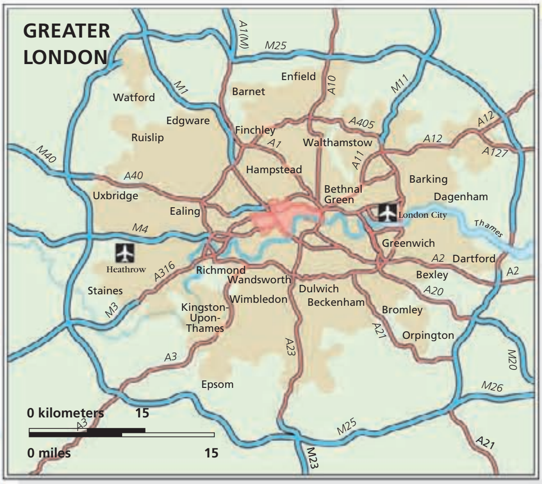
The largest city in Europe, London is home to over seven million people and covers 625 sq miles (1,600 sq km). The capital was founded by the Romans in the first century AD as a convenient administrative and communications centre and a port for trade with Continental Europe. For a thousand years it has been the principal residence of British monarchs as well as the centre of business and government, and it is rich in historic buildings and treasures from all periods. In addition to its diverse range of museums, galleries and churches, London is an exciting contemporary city, packed with a vast array of entertainments and shops. The attractions on offer are virtually endless but this map highlights the most important of those described in detail on the following pages.

Buckingham Palace (pp86–7) *is London home and office to the monarchy. The Changing of the Guard takes place on the palace forecourt.*


REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY
(see pp102–107)
WEST END AND WESTMINSTER
(see pp76–93)
SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK
(see pp94–101)
0 kilometers 1
0 miles 0.5

Hyde Park (p75)*, the largest central London park, boasts numerous sports facilities, restaurants, an art gallery and Speakers' Corner. The highlight is the Serpentine Lake.*

The Victoria and Albert Museum (pp98–99) *is the world's largest museum of decorative arts. This German cup is 15th century.*


GREATER LONDON
A1(M)
M25
Enfield
A10
M11
Barnet
M1
Watford
Edgware
A405
A12
Finchley
A1
Walthamstow
A12
Ruislip
A127
M40
A11
Hampstead
A40
Barking
Bethnal Green
Dagenham
Uxbridge
Ealing
London City
Thames
M4
Greenwich
Heathrow
A2
Dartford
A316
Richmond
A2
Bexley
Wandsworth
Staines
Dulwich
A20
Wimbledon
Beckenham
M3
Kingston-Upon-Thames
Bromley
A21
A23
Orpington
A3
M20
Epsom
M26
0 kilometers 15
A3
M25
A21
0 miles 15
M23

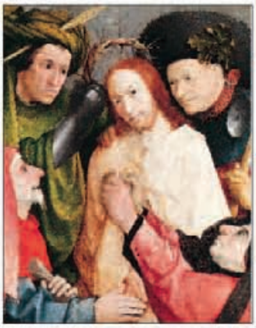
KEY

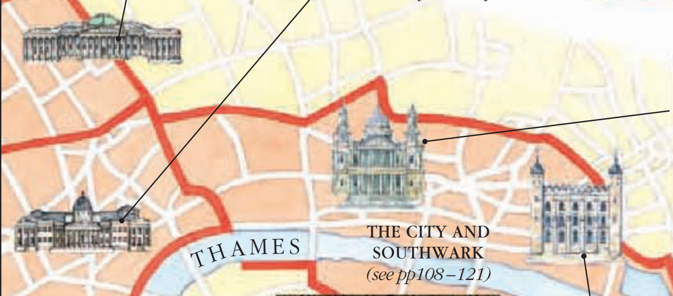
▨ Main sightseeing area

◁ **Nelson's Column (1843) and the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square**

The British Museum's (pp106–7) *vast collection of antiquities from all over the world includes this Portland Vase from the 1st century BC.*

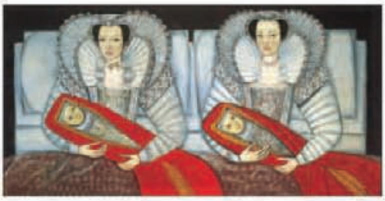
The National Gallery's (pp82–3) *world-famous collection of paintings includes works such as* Christ Mocked *(c.1495) by Hieronymus Bosch.*





St Paul's (pp114–15) *huge dome is the cathedral's most distinctive feature. Three galleries around the dome give spectacular views of London.*

Westminster Abbey (pp92–3) *has glorious medieval architecture and is crammed with impressive tombs and monuments to some of Britain's greatest public figures.*



Tate Britain (p91) *displays an outstanding collection of British art ranging from stylized Elizabethan portraiture, such as* The Cholmondeley Ladies, *to cutting edge installation and film.*

The Tower of London (pp118–19) *is most famous as the prison where enemies of the Crown were executed. The Tower houses the Crown Jewels, including the Imperial State Crown.*

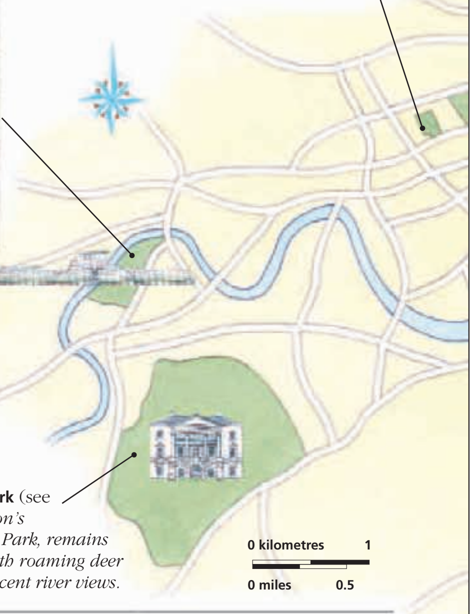
London's Parks and Gardens

Camellia japonica

London has one of the world's greenest city centres, full of tree-filled squares and large expanses of grass, some of which have been public land since medieval times. From the elegant terraces of Regent's Park to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, every London park and garden has its own charm and character. Some are ancient crown or public land, while others were created from the grounds of private houses or disused land. Londoners make the most of these open spaces: for exercise, listening to music, or simply escaping the bustle of the city.

Holland Park (see pp122–23) *offers acres of peaceful woodland, an open-air theatre* (see p153) *and a café.*

Kew Gardens (see p126) *are the world's premiere botanic gardens. An amazing variety of plants from all over the world is complemented by an array of temples, monuments and a landscaped lake.*



Richmond Park (see p126), *London's largest Royal Park, remains unspoiled with roaming deer and magnificent river views.*

SEASONAL BEST

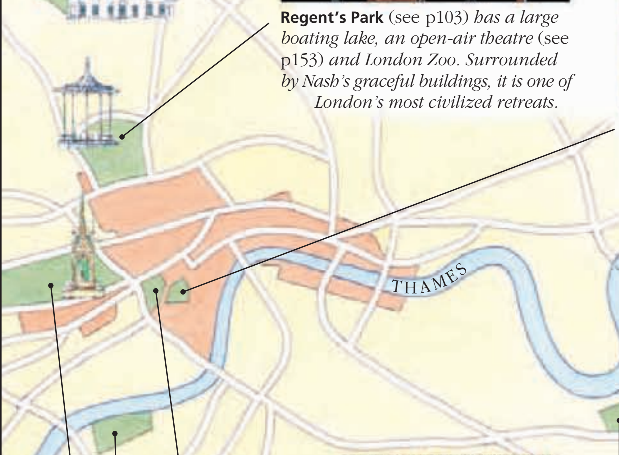
As winter draws to a close, spectacular drifts of crocuses, daffodils and tulips are to be found peeping above the ground in Green Park and Kew. Easter weekend marks the start of outdoor events with funfairs on many commons and parks. During the summer months the parks are packed with picnickers and sunbathers and you can often catch a free open-air concert in St James's or Regent's parks. The energetic can play tennis in most parks, swim in Hyde Park's Serpentine or the ponds on Hampstead Heath, or take rowing boats out on the lakes in Regent's and Battersea parks. Autumn brings a different atmosphere, and on 5 November firework displays and bonfires celebrate Guy Fawkes Night *(see p64)*. Winter is a good time to visit the tropical glasshouses and the colourful outdoor winter garden at Kew. If the weather gets really cold, the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens may be fit for ice-skating.

Winter in Kensington Gardens, adjoining Hyde Park

Hampstead Heath *(see p124)* is a breezy open space embracing a variety of landscapes.

Regent's Park (see p103) *has a large boating lake, an open-air theatre* (see p153) *and London Zoo. Surrounded by Nash's graceful buildings, it is one of London's most civilized retreats.*

St James's Park, *in the heart of the city, is a popular escape for office workers. It is also a reserve for wildfowl.*



Green Park, *with its shady trees and benches, offers a cool, restful spot in the heart of London.*

Greenwich Park (see p125) *is dominated by the National Maritime Museum. There are fine views from the Old Royal Observatory on the hill top.*

Battersea Park is a pleasant riverside site with a man-made boating lake.

Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens (see p101) *are both popular London retreats. There are sporting facilities, a lake and art gallery in Hyde Park. This plaque is from the ornate Italian Garden in Kensington Gardens.*

HISTORIC CEMETERIES

In the late 1830s, a ring of private cemeteries was established around London to ease the pressure on the monstrously overcrowded and unhealthy burial grounds of the inner city. Today the cemeteries, notably **Highgate** *(see p124)* and **Kensal Green**, are well worth visiting for their flamboyant Victorian monuments.

Kensal Green cemetery on the Harrow Road

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER

The West End is the city's social and cultural centre and the London home of the royal family. Stretching from the edge of Hyde Park to Covent Garden, the district bustles all day and late into the night. Whether you're looking for art, history, street- or café-life, it is the most rewarding area in which to begin an exploration of the city.

Horse Guard on Whitehall

Westminster has been at the centre of political and religious power for a thousand years. In the 11th century, King Canute founded Westminster Palace and Edward the Confessor built Westminster Abbey, where all English monarchs have been crowned since 1066. As modern government developed, the great offices of state were established in the area.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Historic Streets and Buildings

Banqueting House ⑱
Buckingham Palace pp86–7 ⑬
Cabinet War Rooms and Churchill Museum ⑯
Downing Street ⑰
Houses of Parliament pp90–91 ⑲
Piccadilly Circus ⑧
Ritz Hotel ⑩
Royal Mews ⑮
Royal Opera House ③
The Mall ⑫
The Piazza and Central Market ①

Museums and Galleries

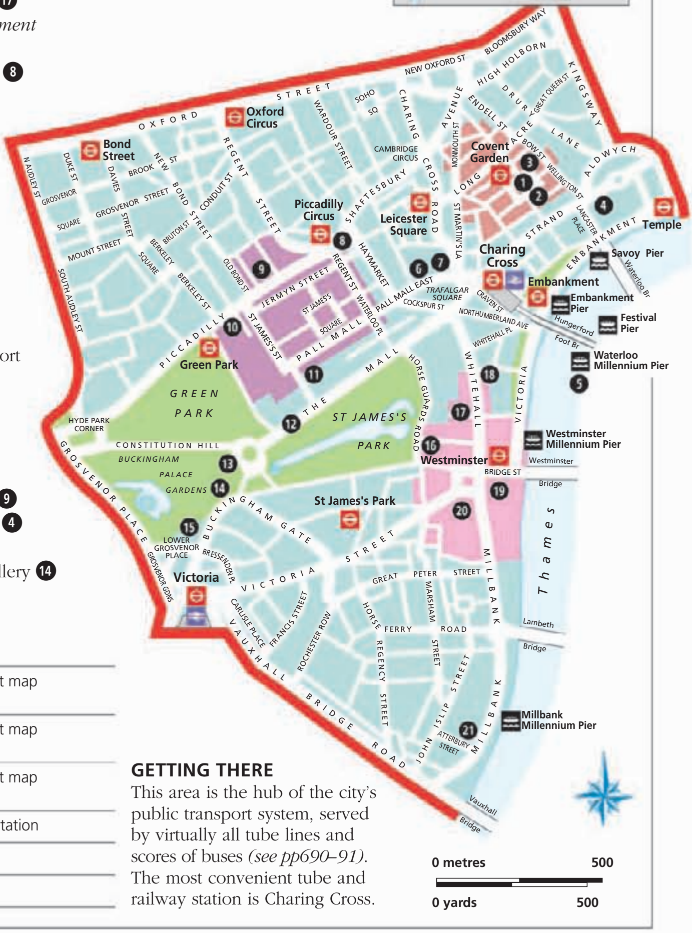
London's Transport Museum ②
National Gallery pp82–3 ⑥
National Portrait Gallery ⑦
Royal Academy ⑨
Somerset House ④
Tate Britain ㉑
The Queen's Gallery ⑭

Churches

Queen's Chapel ⑪
Westminster Abbey pp92–3 ⑳

Attractions

London Eye ⑤


OXFORD STREET
Oxford Circus
Bond Street
NEW OXFORD ST
BLOOMSBURY WAY
HIGH HOLBORN
KINGSWAY
DRURY LANE
ALDWYCH
Temple
Covent Garden
STRAND
Charing Cross
Embankment
Embankment Pier
Savoy Pier
Festival Pier
Waterloo Millennium Pier
Hungerford Foot Br
Waterloo Br
Leicester Square
Piccadilly Circus
SHAFTESBURY
CHARING CROSS ROAD
REGENT STREET
JERMYN STREET
PICCADILLY
Green Park
GREEN PARK
THE MALL
ST JAMES'S PARK
HYDE PARK CORNER
CONSTITUTION HILL
BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS
GROSVENOR PLACE
BUCKINGHAM GATE
VICTORIA STREET
Victoria
VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD
St James's Park
Westminster
Westminster Millennium Pier
Westminster Bridge
WHITEHALL
TRAFALGAR SQUARE
MILLBANK
Thames
Lambeth Bridge
Millbank Millennium Pier
Vauxhall Bridge
HORSEFERRY ROAD
0 metres 500
0 yards 500

KEY

🟥 Street-by-Street map *pp78–9*
🟪 Street-by-Street map *pp84–5*
▨ Street-by-Street map *pp88–9*
⊖ Underground station
⇌ Railway station
⛴ River boat pier

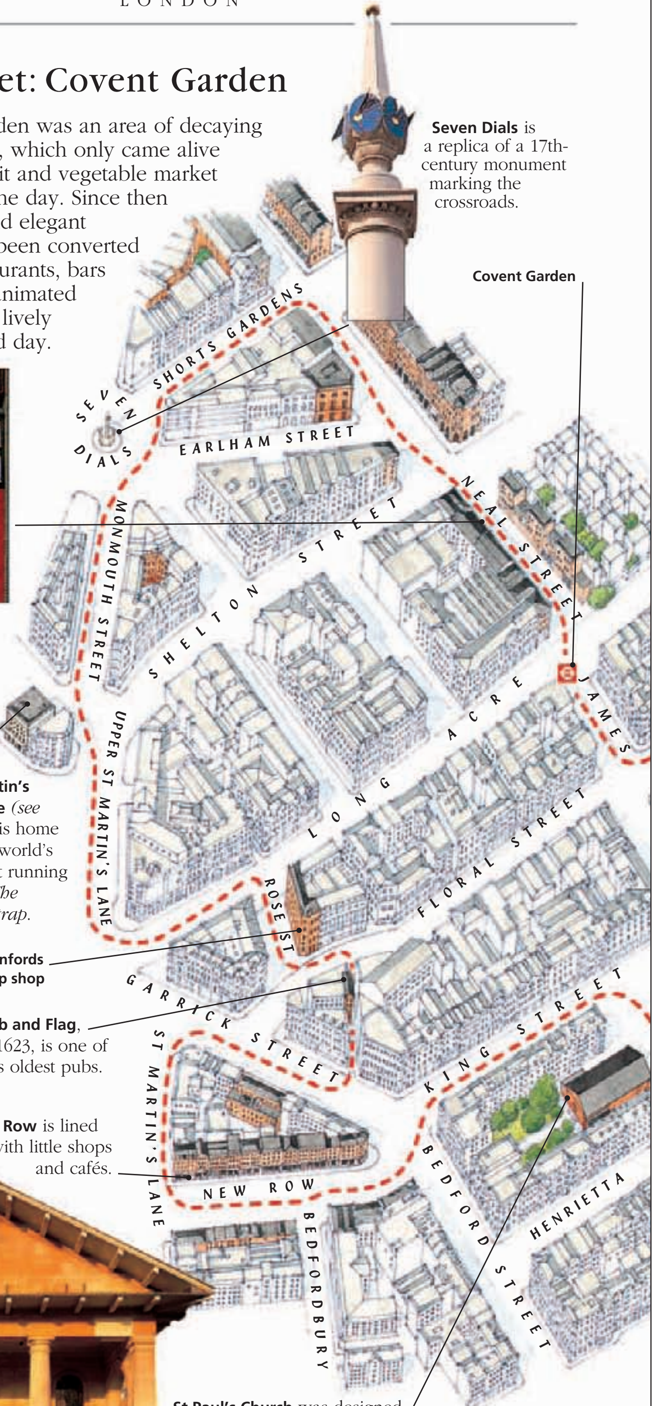
GETTING THERE

This area is the hub of the city's public transport system, served by virtually all tube lines and scores of buses *(see pp690–91)*. The most convenient tube and railway station is Charing Cross.

◁ **Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament**

Street-by-Street: Covent Garden

Until 1973, Covent Garden was an area of decaying streets and warehouses, which only came alive after dark when the fruit and vegetable market traders packed up for the day. Since then the Victorian market and elegant buildings nearby have been converted into stylish shops, restaurants, bars and cafés, creating an animated district which attracts a lively young crowd, night and day.


SEVEN DIALS
SHORTS GARDENS
EARLHAM STREET
MONMOUTH STREET
SHELTON STREET
NEAL STREET
JAMES
LONG ACRE
UPPER ST MARTIN'S LANE
ROSE ST
FLORAL STREET
GARRICK STREET
KING STREET
ST MARTIN'S LANE
NEW ROW
BEDFORDBURY
BEDFORD STREET
HENRIETTA

Seven Dials is a replica of a 17th-century monument marking the crossroads.

Covent Garden

THE TEA HOUSE

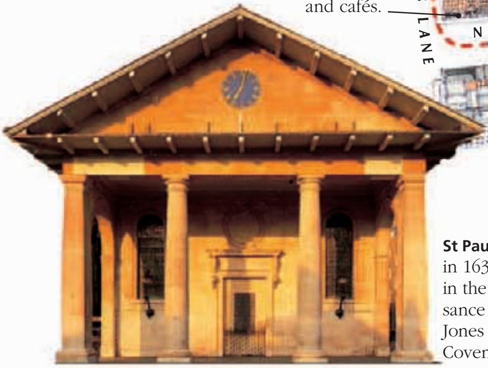
Neal Street and Neal's Yard are lined with many specialist shops converted from former warehouses.

St Martin's Theatre *(see p153)* is home to the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap*.

Stanfords map shop

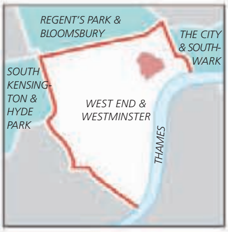
The Lamb and Flag, built in 1623, is one of London's oldest pubs.

New Row is lined with little shops and cafés.



St Paul's Church was designed in 1633 by Inigo Jones *(see p53)*, in the style of the Italian Renaissance architect, Andrea Palladio. Jones also designed the original Covent Garden Piazza.

Royal Opera House
Some of the world's greatest opera singers and ballet dancers have performed at the Royal Opera House ❸



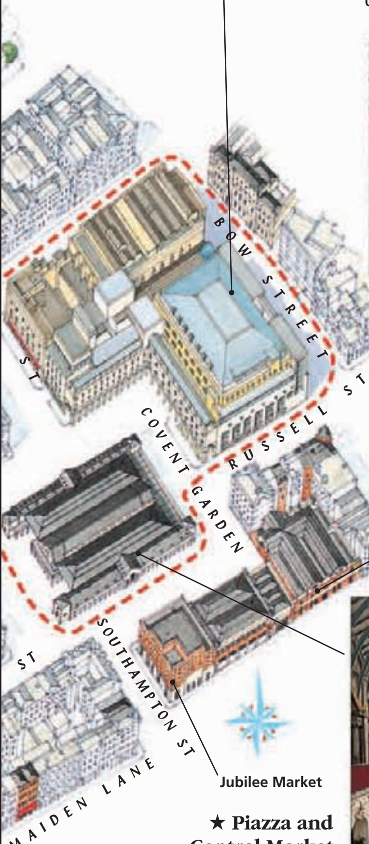
LOCATOR MAP
See Street Finder map 11

KEY

▬ ▬ ▬	Suggested route

0 meters **100**

0 yards **100**



London's Transport Museum
This museum's intriguing collection brings to life the history of the city's tubes, buses and trains. It also has fine examples of 20th-century commercial art ❷

Jubilee Market

★ Piazza and Central Market
Shops and cafés fill the piazza and market ❶

STAR SIGHTS

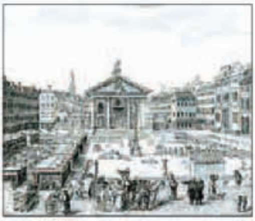
★ Piazza and Central Market

The Piazza and Central Market ❶

Covent Garden WC2. **Map** 11 C2. ⊖ *Covent Garden.* ♿ *cobbled streets.* **Street performers in Piazza:** *10am–dusk daily.*

The 17th-century architect Inigo Jones *(see p53)* planned the Piazza in Covent Garden as an elegant residential square, modelled on the piazza in the Tuscan town of Livorno, which he had seen under construction during his travels in Italy. For a brief period, the Piazza became one of the most fashionable addresses in London, but it was superseded by the even grander St James's Square *(see p85)* which lies to the southwest.

Decline accelerated when a fruit and vegetable market developed. By the mid-18th century, the Piazza had become a haunt of prostitutes and most of its houses had turned into seedy lodgings, gambling dens, brothels and taverns.



A mid-18th-century view of Covent Garden's Piazza

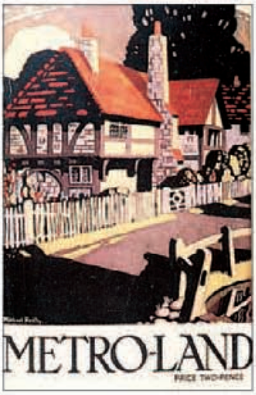
Meanwhile the wholesale produce market became the largest in the country and in 1828 a market hall was erected to ease congestion. The market, however, soon outgrew its new home and despite the construction of new buildings, such as Floral and Jubilee halls, the congestion grew worse. In 1973 the market moved to a new site in south London, and over the next two decades Covent Garden was redeveloped. Today only St Paul's Church remains of Inigo Jones's buildings, and Covent Garden, with its many small shops, cafés, restaurants, market stalls and street entertainers, is one of central London's liveliest districts.

London's Transport Museum ❷

The Piazza, Covent Garden WC2. **Map** 11 C2. ***Tel*** *020 7379 6344.* ⊖ *Covent Garden.* ○ *10am–6pm Sat–Thu, 11am–6pm Fri.* 🎟 ♿ ✋ *phone in advance.* 🛍 ☕ **www**.ltmuseum.co.uk

This collection of buses, trams and underground trains ranges from the earliest horse-drawn omnibuses to a present-day Hoppa bus. Housed in the Victorian Flower Market of Covent Garden built in 1872, the museum is particularly good for children, who can sit in the driver's seat of a bus or an underground train, operate signals and chat to an actor playing a 19th-century tube-tunnel miner.

London's bus and train companies have long been prolific patrons of artists, and the museum holds a fine collection of 19th- and 20th-century commercial art. Copies of some of the best works by distinguished artists, such as Paul Nash and Graham Sutherland, are on sale in the shop. Original works can be seen at the museum's depot in Acton.



Poster by Michael Reilly (1929), London Transport Museum

Royal Opera House ❸

Covent Garden WC2. **Map** 11 C2. ***Tel*** *020 7304 4000.* ⊖ *Covent Garden.* ○ *for performances and guided tours (phone to check).* 🍴 **www**.roh.org.uk

The first theatre on this site was built in 1732, and staged plays as well as concerts. However, the building was destroyed by fire in 1808 and again in 1856. The present structure was designed in 1858 by E M Barry. John Flaxman's portico frieze, depicting tragedy and comedy, survived from the previous building of 1809.

The Opera House is home to the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet companies. After two years of renovation the building reopened in the new millennium, complete with a second auditorium and new rehearsal rooms. Backstage tours are available, and once a month visitors can watch the Royal Ballet rehearse.

Somerset House ❹

Strand WC2. **Map** 11 C2. ***Tel*** *020 7845 4600.* ⊖ *Temple.* ○ *8am–11pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ***Ice rink*** ○ *two months in winter.* 🎟 ☕ **Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery.** ☕ 🛍 ♿ **Admiralty Restaurant.** ***Tel*** *020 7845 4646.* **www**.somerset-house.org.uk

Designed in 1770 by William Chambers, Somerset House presents two great collections of art, the **Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery** and the **Embankment Galleries**.

Somerset House: Strand façade

The courtyard forms an attractive piazza (which becomes an ice rink in winter), and the riverside terrace has a café. The Admiralty Restaurant is also highly regarded. Located in Somerset House but famous in its own right is the Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery, which includes important Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works by artists such as Manet, Renoir and Cezanne. In spring 2008 the new riverside Embankment Galleries were launched. Occupying 750 square metres of exhibition space on the two

SOHO AND CHINATOWN

Soho has been renowned for pleasures of the table, the flesh and the intellect ever since it was first developed in the late 17th century. At first a fashionable residential area, it declined when high society shifted west to Mayfair and immigrants from Europe moved into its narrow streets. Furniture-makers and tailors set up shop here and were joined in the late 19th century by pubs, nightclubs, restaurants and brothels. In the 1960s, Hong Kong Chinese moved into the area around Gerrard and Lisle streets and they created an aromatic Chinatown, packed with many restaurants and food shops. Soho's raffish reputation has long attracted artists and writers, ranging from the 18th-century essayist Thomas de Quincey to poet Dylan Thomas and painter Francis Bacon. Although strip joints and peep shows remain, Soho has enjoyed something of a renaissance, and today is full of stylish and lively bars and restaurants.

Lion dancer in February's Chinese New Year celebrations

The opulent Palm Court of the Ritz Hotel

lower floors, the changing programme covers a broad range of contemporary arts, including photography, design, fashion and architecture.

London Eye ❺

Jubilee Gardens, South Bank, SE1. **Map** 12 D2. ***Tel*** *0870 5000 600 (information and 24-hr advance booking – recommended as tickets sell out days in advance).* ⊖ *Waterloo, Westminster.* 🚌 *11, 24, 211.* ○ *Oct–Apr: 10am–8pm daily; May–Sept: 10am–9pm daily (Jul & Aug: to 9:30pm).* ● *25 Dec (for maintenance).* 🎫 *Pick up tickets at County Hall (adjacent to Eye) at least 30 mins before boarding time.* ☕ 🛍 ♿ **www**.londoneye.com

The London Eye is a 135-m (443-ft) observation wheel that was installed on the South Bank to mark the Millennium. Its enclosed passenger capsules offer a gentle, 30-minute ride as the wheel makes a full turn, with breathtaking views over London and for up to 42 km (26 miles) around. Towering over one of the world's most familiar riverscapes, it has understandably captured the hearts of Londoners and visitors alike, and is one of the city's most popular attractions. "Flights" on the wheel are on the hour and half-hour.

National Gallery ❻

See pp82–3.

National Portrait Gallery ❼

2 St Martin's Place WC2. **Map** 11 B3. ***Tel*** *020 7312 2463.* ⊖ *Charing Cross, Leicester Sq.* ○ *10am–5:50pm Sat–Wed, 10am–9pm Thu & Fri.* ● *24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🎧 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.npg.org.uk

This museum celebrates Britain's history through portraits, photographs and sculptures; subjects range from Elizabeth I to David Beckham. The 20th-century section contains paintings and photographs of the royal family, politicians, rock stars, designers, artists and writers.

Piccadilly Circus ❽

W1. **Map** 11 A3. ⊖ *Piccadilly Circus.*

Dominated by garish neon advertising hoardings, Piccadilly Circus is a hectic traffic junction surrounded by shopping malls. It began as an early 19th-century crossroads between Piccadilly and John Nash's *(see p105)* Regent Street. It was briefly an elegant space, edged by curving stucco façades, but by 1910 the first electric advertisements had been installed. For years people have congregated at its centre, beneath the delicately poised figure of Eros, erected in 1892.

The Statue of Eros

Royal Academy ❾

Burlington House, Piccadilly W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7300 8000.* ⊖ *Piccadilly Circus, Green Park.* ○ *10am–6pm Sat–Thu, 10am–10pm Fri.* ● *24–25 Dec, Good Fri.* 🎫 ♿ ☛ *by appointment.* 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.royalacademy.org.uk

Founded in 1768, the Royal Academy is best known for its summer exhibition, which has been an annual event for over 200 years and comprises a rewarding mix of around 1,200 new works by established and unknown painters, sculptors and architects. During the rest of the year, the gallery shows prestigious touring exhibitions from around the world, and the courtyard in front of Burlington House, one of the West End's few surviving mansions from the early 18th century, is often filled with people waiting to get in. Quite apart from its aesthetic delights, the Royal Academy provides the weary traveller with a little lacuna of tranquillity. Its interior decoration inspires calm, and seems to be cut off from the stresses and strains of modern city life.

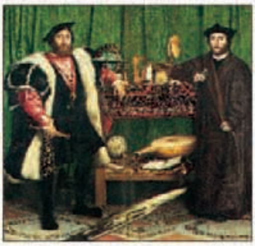
Ritz Hotel ❿

Piccadilly W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7493 8181.* ⊖ *Green Park.* ♿ *See* ***Where to Stay*** *p557.* **www**.theritzlondon.com

Cesar Ritz, the Swiss hotelier who inspired the word "ritzy", had virtually settled down to a quiet retirement by 1906 when this hotel was built and named after him. The colonnaded front of the château-style building was erected in 1906 to suggest just the merest whiff of Paris, where the grandest hotels were to be found at the turn of the century. It still maintains its Edwardian air of *fin de siècle* opulence and sophisticated grandeur, and is a popular venue for afternoon tea (reservations are required). A touch of *soigné* danger may be found in the casino.

National Gallery ❻

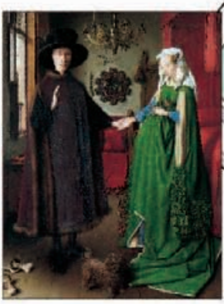
The National Gallery is London's leading art museum, with over 2,300 paintings, most on permanent display. It has flourished since 1824, when the House of Commons agreed to purchase 38 major paintings. These became the core of a national collection of European art that now ranges from Cimabue in the 13th century to 19th-century Impressionists. The gallery's particular strengths are in Dutch, Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Spanish painting. To the left of the main gallery lies the Sainsbury Wing, financed by the grocery family and completed in 1991. It houses the Early Renaissance collection.



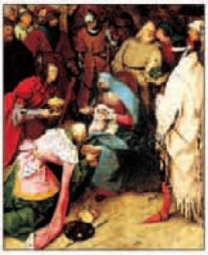
The Ambassadors
The strange shape in the foreground of this Hans Holbein portrait (1533) is a distorted skull, a symbol of mortality.

KEY TO FLOORPLAN

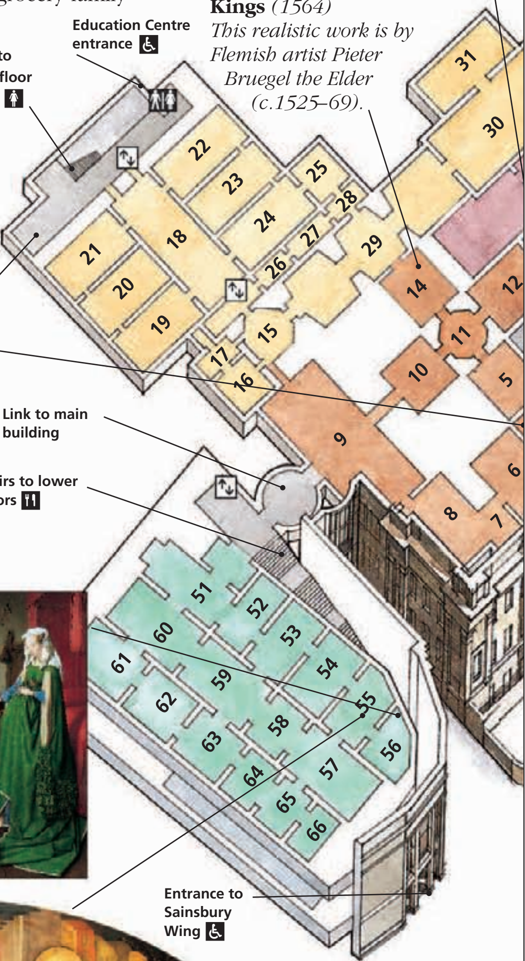
- 🟦 Painting 1250–1500
- 🟧 Painting 1500–1600
- 🟨 Painting 1600–1700
- 🟩 Painting 1700–1900
- 🟪 Special exhibitions
- ⬜ Non-exhibition space



Arnolfini Portrait
Jan van Eyck (c.1385–1441), one of the pioneers of oil painting, shows his mastery of colour, texture, and minute detail in this portrait of 1434.



The Adoration of the Kings *(1564)*
This realistic work is by Flemish artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c.1525–69).


Stairs and lift to lower galleries
Education Centre entrance ♿
Stairs to lower floor
Learning gallery
Link to main building
Stairs to lower floors
Entrance to Sainsbury Wing ♿
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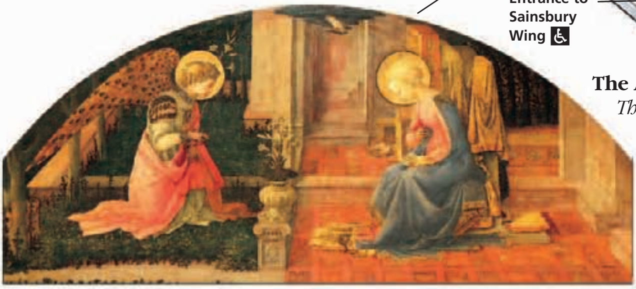
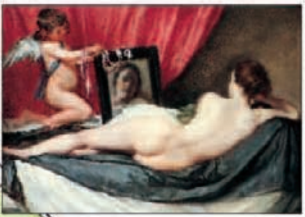
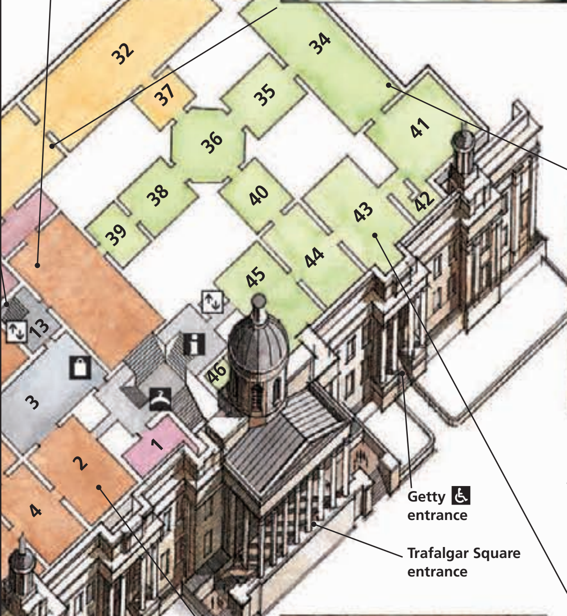


The Annunciation
This refined work of the early 1450s, by Fra Filippo Lippi, forms part of the gallery's exceptional Italian Renaissance collection.

★ 'The Rokeby Venus'
This is Velázquez's only surviving female nude (1647–51).





Central Hall

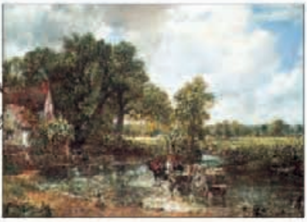
Getty ♿ **entrance**

Trafalgar Square entrance

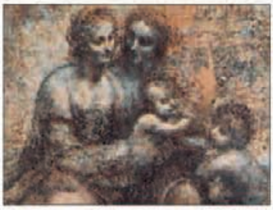
The Neo-Classical façade is made of Portland stone.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

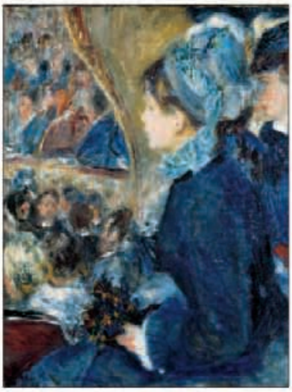
Trafalgar Sq WC2. **Map** 11 B3. ***Tel*** *020 7747 2885.* ⊖ *Charing Cross, Leicester Sq, Piccadilly Circus.* 🚌 *3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 23, 24, 29, 53, 77A, 88, 91, 139, 159, 176, 453.* 🚆 *Charing Cross.* ○ *10am–6pm daily (9pm Fri).* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ *via Sainsbury Wing and Getty entrances.* 🎧 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.nationalgallery.org.uk



★ The Hay Wain *(1821)*
The great age of 19th-century landscape painting is represented by Constable and Turner (see p91). *This picture shows how Constable caught changing light and shadow.*



★ 'The Leonardo Cartoon'
(c.1499–1500)
The genius of Leonardo da Vinci glows through this picture of the Virgin and Child, St Anne and St John the Baptist.



At the Theatre *(1876–7)*
Renoir was one of the greatest painters of the Impressionist movement. The theatre was a popular subject among artists of the time.

GALLERY GUIDE

Most of the collection is housed on one floor. The paintings hang chronologically, with the earliest works, 1250–1500, in the Sainsbury Wing. Lesser paintings of all periods are displayed on the lower floor of the main building. There is a restaurant on the first floor in the Sainsbury Wing.

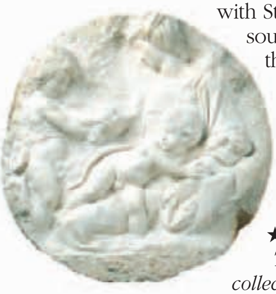
STAR PAINTINGS

- ★ 'The Leonardo Cartoon' by Leonardo da Vinci
- ★ 'The Rokeby Venus' by Diego Velázquez
- ★ The Hay Wain by John Constable

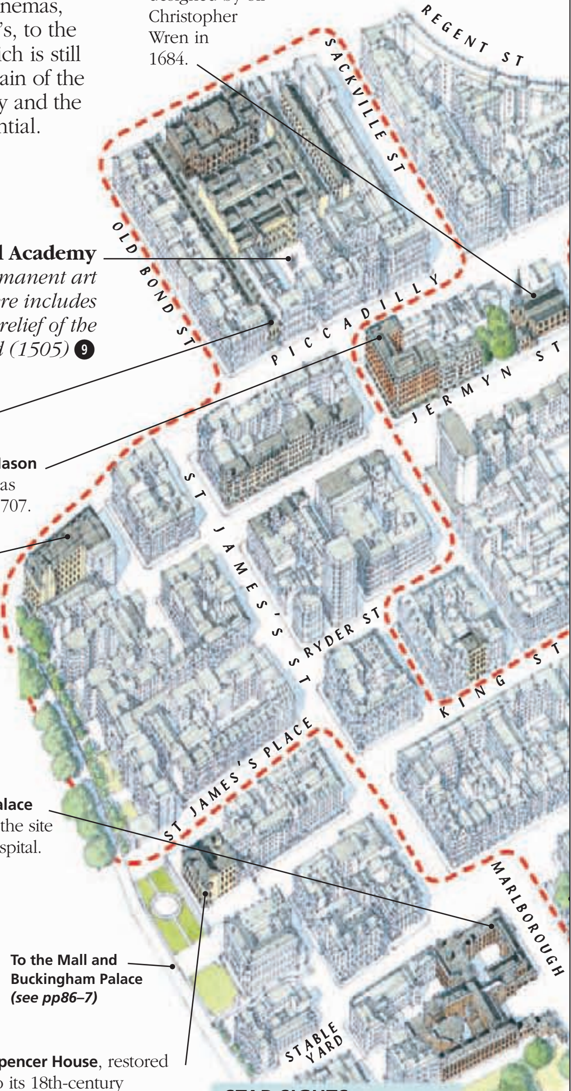
Street-by-Street: Piccadilly and St James's

As soon as Henry VIII built St James's Palace in the 1530s, the surrounding area became the centre of fashionable court life. Today Piccadilly forms a contrast between the bustling commercial district full of shopping arcades, eateries and cinemas, with St James's, to the south, which is still the domain of the wealthy and the influential.

St James's Church was designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1684.



★ Royal Academy
The permanent art collection here includes this Michelangelo relief of the Madonna and Child (1505) ❾



Fortnum & Mason *(see p148)* was founded in 1707.

The Ritz
César Ritz founded one of London's most famous hotels in 1906 ❿

Burlington Arcade, an opulent covered walk, has fine shops and beadles on patrol.

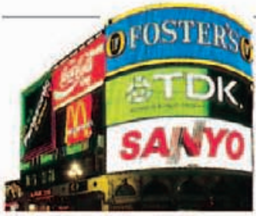
St James's Palace was built on the site of a leper hospital.

To the Mall and Buckingham Palace ***(see pp86–7)***

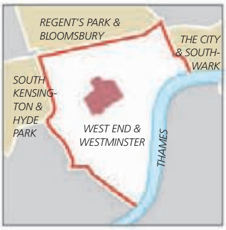
Spencer House, restored to its 18th-century splendour, contains fine period furniture and paintings. This Palladian palace was completed in 1766 for the 1st Earl Spencer, an ancestor of the late Princess of Wales.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Piccadilly Circus
- ★ Royal Academy


FOSTER'S
TDK
SANYO

★ Piccadilly Circus
The crowds and dazzling neon lights make this the West End's focal point ❽

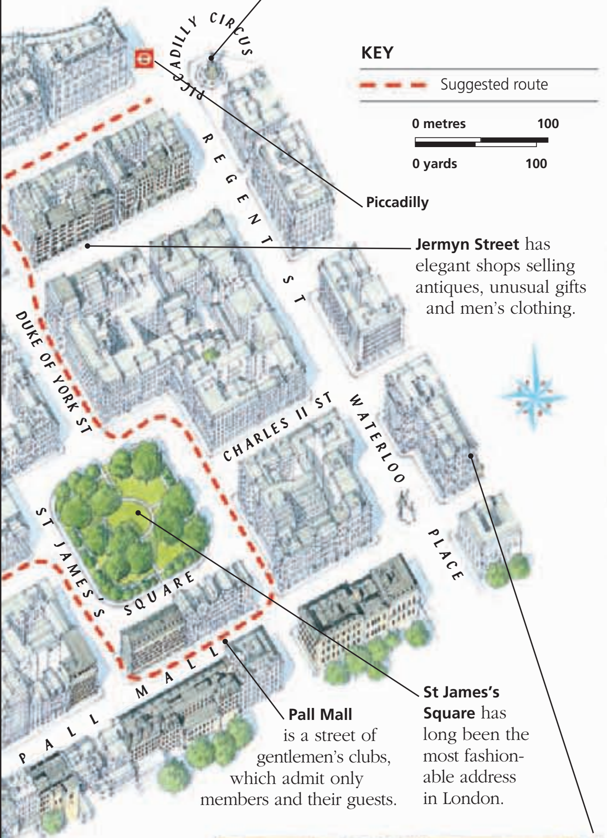

REGENT'S PARK & BLOOMSBURY
THE CITY & SOUTHWARK
SOUTH KENSINGTON & HYDE PARK
WEST END & WESTMINSTER
THAMES

LOCATOR MAP
See Street Finder map 10, 11

KEY

Suggested route

0 metres **100**
0 yards **100**


PICCADILLY CIRCUS
REGENT ST
DUKE OF YORK ST
CHARLES II ST
WATERLOO PLACE
ST JAMES'S SQUARE
PALL MALL

Piccadilly

Jermyn Street has elegant shops selling antiques, unusual gifts and men's clothing.

Pall Mall is a street of gentlemen's clubs, which admit only members and their guests.

St James's Square has long been the most fashionable address in London.

Queen's Chapel
This was the first Classical church in England ⓫

Royal Opera Arcade is lined with quality shops. Designed by John Nash, it was completed in 1818.

Queen's Chapel ⓫

Marlborough Rd SW1. **Map** 11 A4. ***Tel*** *020-7930 4832.* ⊖ *Green Park.* ○ *to the public Sun services (Easter–end Jul) and major Saints' Days only.* ♿

The sumptuous Queen's Chapel was designed by Inigo Jones for the Infanta of Spain, the intended bride of Charles I *(see pp52–3)*. Work started in 1623 but ceased when the marriage negotiations were shelved. The chapel was finally completed in 1627 for Charles's eventual queen, Henrietta Maria. It was the first church in England to be built in a Classical style, with a coffered ceiling based on a reconstruction by Palladio of an ancient Roman temple.

Interior of Queen's Chapel

The Mall ⓬

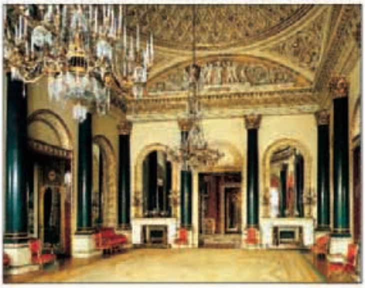
SW1. **Map** 11 A4. ⊖ *Charing Cross, Green Park.*

This broad triumphal approach from Trafalgar Square to Buckingham Palace was created by Aston Webb when he redesigned the front of the palace and the Victoria Monument in 1911. The spacious tree-lined avenue follows the course of an old path at the edge of St James's Park. The path was laid out in the reign of Charles II, when it became London's most fashionable and cosmopolitan promenade. The Mall is used for royal processions on special occasions. Flagpoles down both sides fly the national flags of foreign heads of state during official visits. The Mall is closed to traffic on Sundays.

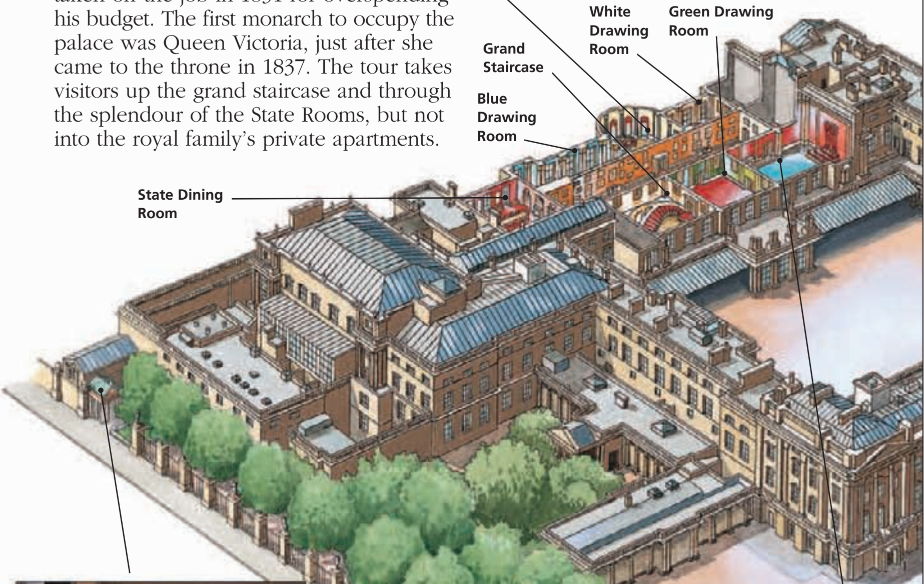
Buckingham Palace ⑬

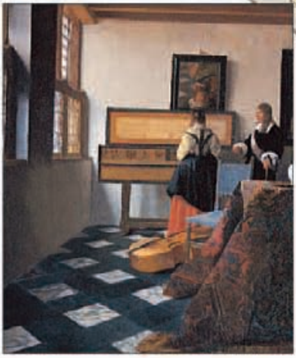
Queen Elizabeth II

Opened to visitors for the first time in 1993 to raise money for repairing fire damage to Windsor Castle *(see pp236–7)*, the Queen's official London home and office is an extremely popular attraction in August and September. John Nash *(see p105)* began converting the 18th-century Buckingham House into a palace for George IV in 1826 but was taken off the job in 1831 for overspending his budget. The first monarch to occupy the palace was Queen Victoria, just after she came to the throne in 1837. The tour takes visitors up the grand staircase and through the splendour of the State Rooms, but not into the royal family's private apartments.

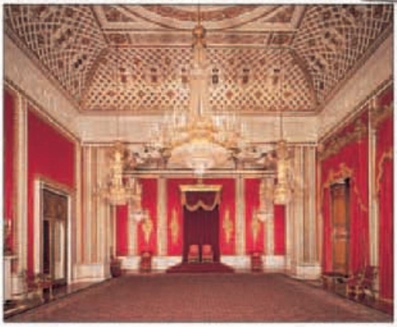


Music Room
State guests are presented and royal babies christened in this room.





The Queen's Gallery
Masterpieces from the Royal Collection, such as Vermeer's The Music Lesson *(c.1660), are displayed here in a series of changing exhibitions.*

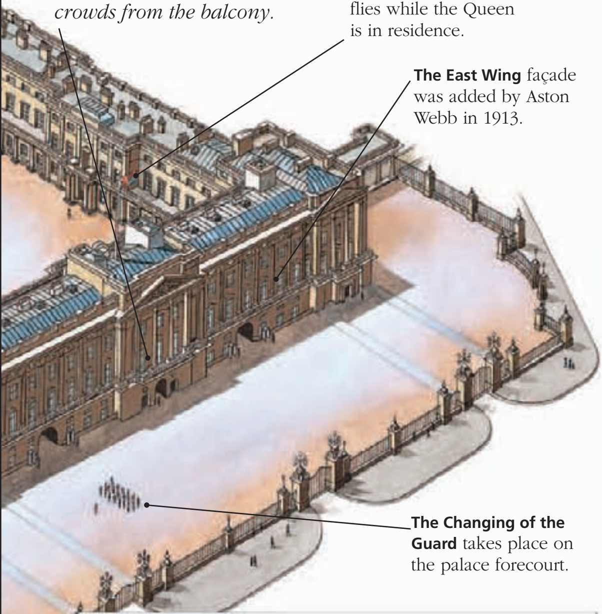


Throne Room
The Queen carries out many formal ceremonial duties here, under the richly gilded ceiling.

View over the Mall
On special occasions the Royal Family wave to crowds from the balcony.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

SW1. **Map** 10 F5. ***Tel*** *020-7321 2233.* ⊖ *St James's Park, Victoria.* 🚌 *11, 16, 24, 25, 28, 36, 38, 52, 73, 135, C1.* ⇌ *Victoria.* **State Rooms** ○ *Aug & Sep: 9:45am–6pm daily (last admission: 3:45pm). Tickets sold in Ambassador's Court. Each ticket has a set entry time; or buy a Royal Day Out ticket to avoid the queues.* ✍ ♿ *call first.* **Changing of the Guard**: *11:30am daily or alternate days. Subject to change without notice.* ***Tel*** *020 7321 2233.* **www**.royalcollection.org.uk



The Royal Standard flies while the Queen is in residence.

The East Wing façade was added by Aston Webb in 1913.

The Changing of the Guard takes place on the palace forecourt.

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Dressed in brilliant scarlet tunics and tall furry hats called bearskins, the palace guards stand in sentry boxes outside the Palace. Crowds gather to watch the colourful and musical military ceremony as the guards march from Wellington Barracks to Buckingham Palace, parading for half an hour while the palace keys are handed by the old guard to the new.

The Queen's Gallery ⓮

Buckingham Palace Rd SW1. **Map** 10 F5. ***Tel*** *020 7766 7301.* ⊖ *St James's Park, Victoria.* ○ *10am–5:30pm daily (last admission for exhibitions: 4:30pm).* ● *25, 26 Dec. Call for more details.* 🛍 ✍ **www**.royalcollection.org.uk

The Queen's art collection is one of the finest and most valuable in the world, rich in the works of old masters such as Rembrandt and Leonardo. The gallery hosts a rotating programme of exhibitions, enabling the year-round display of many masterpieces, drawings and decorative arts from the Queen's collection.

Detail: The Gold State Coach (1762), Royal Mews

Royal Mews ⓯

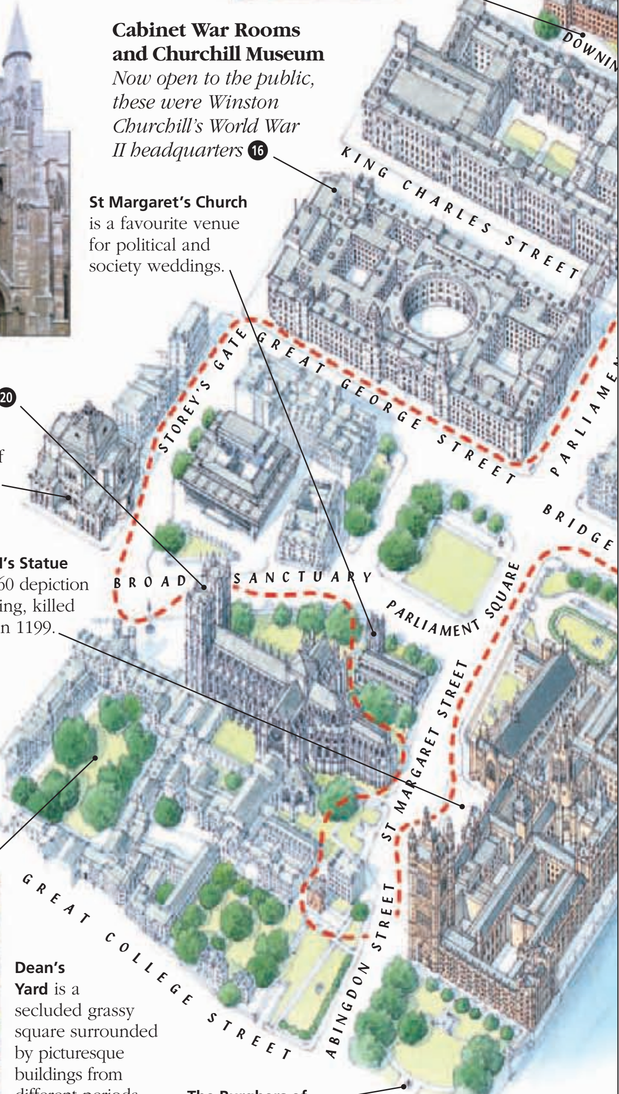
Buckingham Palace Rd SW1. **Map** 10 E5. ***Tel*** *020 7766 7302.* ⊖ *Victoria.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 11am–4pm Sat–Thu (advisable to check opening times on day of visit). Extended opening hrs may operate Aug–Sep.* 🛍 *open 9:30am–5pm daily all year (closed 25, 26 Dec).* ✍ ♿ **www**.royalcollection.org.uk

Lovers of horses and royal pomp should not miss this working stable and coach house. Designed by John Nash in 1825, it houses horses and state coaches used on official occasions. Among them is the glass coach used for royal weddings and foreign ambassadors. The star exhibit is the ornate gold state coach, built for George III in 1762, which was used by the Queen during the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002. The shop sells interesting merchandise.

Street-by-Street: Whitehall and Westminster

The broad avenues of Whitehall and Westminster are lined with imposing buildings that serve the historic seat of both government and the established church. On weekdays the streets are crowded with civil servants whose work is based here, while at weekends the area takes on a different atmosphere with a steady flow of tourists.

Downing Street
Sir Robert Walpole was the first Prime Minister to live here in 1732 ⑰


DOWNIN
KING CHARLES STREET
STOREY'S GATE
GREAT GEORGE STREET
PARLIAMEN
BRIDGE
BROAD SANCTUARY
PARLIAMENT SQUARE
ST MARGARET STREET
GREAT COLLEGE STREET
ABINGDON STREET

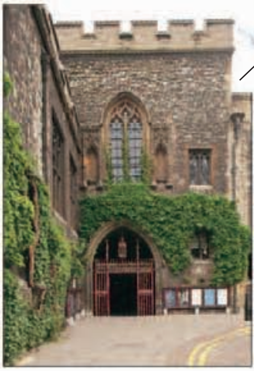
Cabinet War Rooms and Churchill Museum
Now open to the public, these were Winston Churchill's World War II headquarters ⑯

St Margaret's Church is a favourite venue for political and society weddings.

★ **Westminster Abbey**
The abbey is London's oldest and most important church ⑳

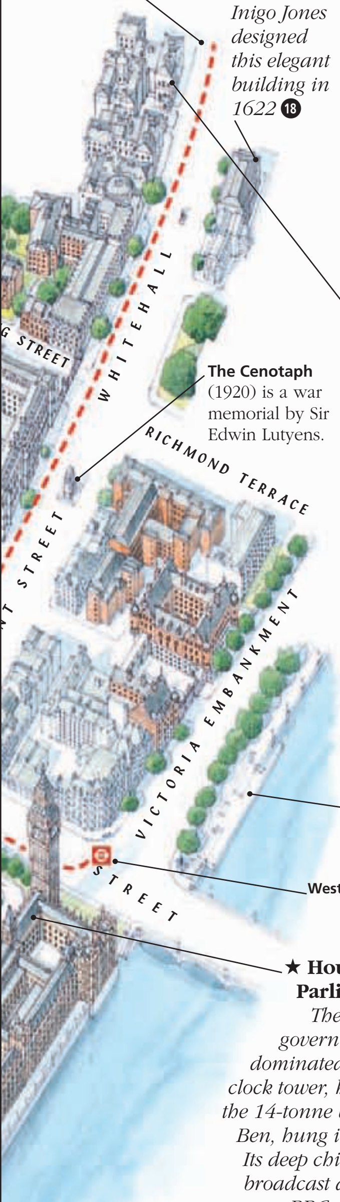
Central Hall (1911) is a florid example of the Beaux Arts style.

Richard I's Statue is an 1860 depiction of the king, killed in battle in 1199.



Dean's Yard is a secluded grassy square surrounded by picturesque buildings from different periods, many used by Westminster School.

The Burghers of Calais is a cast of Auguste Rodin's 1886 original in France.



To Trafalgar Square

Banqueting House *Inigo Jones designed this elegant building in 1622* ⑱

The Cenotaph (1920) is a war memorial by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

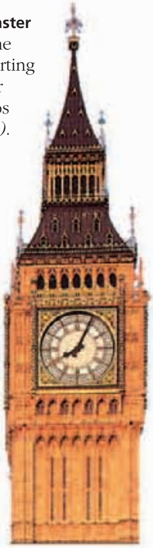
REGENT'S PARK & BLOOMSBURY
THE CITY & SOUTHWARK
WEST END & WESTMINSTER
SOUTH KENSINGTON & HYDE PARK
THAMES

LOCATOR MAP
See Street Finder map 11

Horse Guards is a parade ground protected by a guard, changed twice each day.

Westminster Pier is the main starting point for river trips *(pp74–5).*

Westminster



★ **Houses of Parliament**
The seat of government is dominated by the clock tower, holding the 14-tonne bell Big Ben, hung in 1858. Its deep chimes are broadcast daily on BBC radio ⑲

KEY

– – – Suggested route

0 metres **100**
0 yards **100**

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Westminster Abbey
- ★ Houses of Parliament

Cabinet War Rooms and Churchill Museum ⑯

Clive Steps, King Charles St SW1. **Map** 11 B5. ***Tel*** *020 7930 6961*. ⊖ *Westminster.* ○ *9:30am–6pm daily (last adm: 5pm).* ● *24–26 Dec.* ♿ **www**.iwm.org.uk

This warren of cellars below a government office building is where the War Cabinet – first under Neville Chamberlain, then Winston Churchill from 1940 – met during World War II when German bombs were falling on London. The rooms include living quarters for ministers and military leaders and a Cabinet Room, where strategic decisions were taken. They are laid out as they were when the war ended, complete with Churchill's desk, communications equipment, and maps for plotting battles and strategies. The Churchill Museum records and illustrates Churchill's life and career.

Telephones in the Map Room, Cabinet War Rooms

Downing Street ⑰

SW1. **Map** 11 B4. ⊖ *Westminster.* ● *to the public.*

Number 10 Downing Street has been the official residence of the British Prime Minister since 1732. It contains a Cabinet Room in which government policy is decided, an impressive State Dining Room and a private apartment; outside is a well-protected garden.

Next door at No. 11 is the official residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is in charge of the nation's financial affairs. In 1989, iron gates were erected at the Whitehall end of Downing Street for security purposes.

Banqueting House ⓲

Whitehall SW1. **Map** 11 B4. ***Tel*** *020 3166 6151.* ⊖ *Charing Cross.* ○ *10am–5pm Mon–Sat.* ● *pub hols & for functions. Always call before your visit.* 🛍 🎧 ♿ **www**.hrp.org.uk

Completed by Inigo Jones *(see p53)* in 1622, this was the first building in central London to embody the Palladian style of Renaissance Italy. In 1629 Charles I commissioned Rubens to paint the ceiling with scenes exalting the reign of his father, James I. They symbolize the divine right of kings, disputed by the Parliamentarians, who executed Charles I outside the building in 1649 *(see pp52–3).*

Panels from the Rubens ceiling (1629–34), Banqueting House

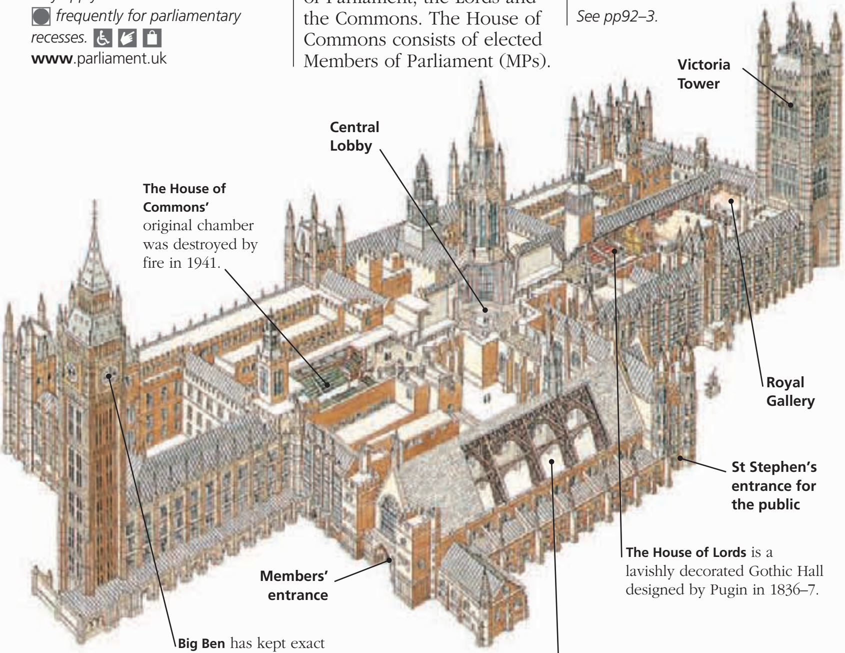
Houses of Parliament ⓳

SW1. **Map** 11 C5. ***Tel*** *020 7219 3000.* ⊖ *Westminster.* **Visitors' Galleries** ○ *phone ahead for information on debate times. Access to the Visitors' Galleries is by queueing system; or UK residents may apply in advance to local MP.* ● *frequently for parliamentary recesses.* ♿ 🎧 🛍 **www**.parliament.uk

There has been a Palace of Westminster here since the 11th century, though only Westminster Hall remains from that time. The present Neo-Gothic structure by Sir Charles Barry was built after the old palace was destroyed by fire in 1834. Since the 16th century it has housed the two Houses of Parliament, the Lords and the Commons. The House of Commons consists of elected Members of Parliament (MPs). The party with most MPs forms the Government, and its leader becomes Prime Minister. The House of Lords comprises peers, law lords, bishops and archbishops.

Westminster Abbey ⓴

See pp92–3.



Victoria Tower

Central Lobby

The House of Commons' original chamber was destroyed by fire in 1941.

Royal Gallery

St Stephen's entrance for the public

The House of Lords is a lavishly decorated Gothic Hall designed by Pugin in 1836–7.

Members' entrance

Big Ben has kept exact time for the nation almost continuously since 1859.

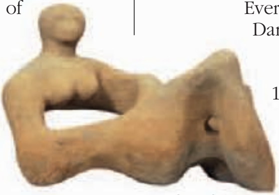
Westminster Hall

Portico of Tate Britain

Tate Britain ㉑

Millbank SW1. **Map** 19 B2. ***Tel*** *020 7887 8888.* ⊖ *Pimlico.* 🚌 *77a, 88, C10.* ⇌ *Victoria, Vauxhall.* ⛴ *to Tate Modern every 40 mins.* ☑ ○ *10am–5:50pm daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.* ☑ *for major exhibitions.* ♿ *Atterbury St.* 🎧 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.tate.org.uk

Formerly the Tate Gallery, Tate Britain is the national gallery of British art, and includes works from the 16th to the 21st century. Displays draw on the enormous Tate Collection, which also includes the international modern art seen at Tate Modern *(p121)*. A river boat, *Tate to Tate*, takes visitors between the two galleries. Located in the Clore Galleries are works from the Turner Bequest *(see box)*.



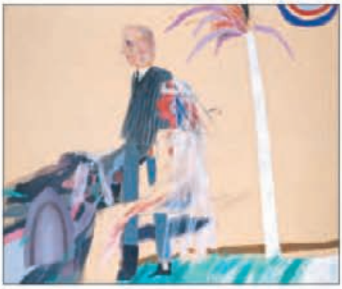
Recumbent Figure **(1938) by Henry Moore**

The size of the collection necessitates some rotation of displays. Major themes change on a yearly basis, solo artists' rooms and smaller themed rooms more frequently. Loan exhibitions are installed in the ground floor galleries and part of the main floor.

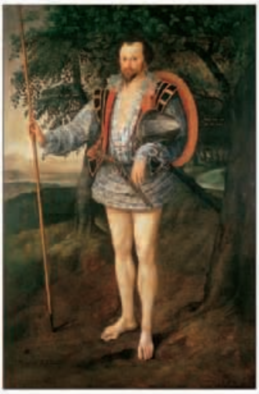
The section on the years 1500–1800 covers a period of dramatic change in British history, from the Tudors and Stuarts through to the age of Thomas Gainsborough. The section concludes with a series of changing displays about the poet and artist William Blake.

The years 1800 to 1900 saw dramatic expansion and change in the arts in Britain. This section shows the new themes that began to emerge. Included are the "Victorian Narrative" painters such as William Powell Frith, and the work of the Pre-Raphaelites, such as John Everett Millais and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The period 1900–1960 includes the work of Jacob Epstein, that of Wyndham Lewis and his Vorticist group, and the celebrated modernist works of Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud.

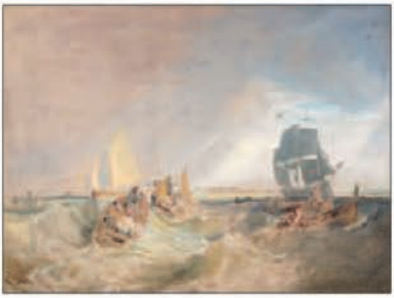
The Tate collection of British art from 1960 to the present is outstanding, and the displays in this section are changed on a regular basis. From the 1960s, Tate's funding for the purchase of works began to increase substantially, while artistic activity continued to pick up speed, encouraged by public spending. As a result, Tate Britain's collection is particularly rich in this period. Works range from the 1960s Pop artists David Hockney, Richard Hamilton and Peter Blake, through the works of Gilbert and George and the landscape artist Richard Long, to the 1980s paintings of Howard Hodgkin and R B Kitaj. The so-called Young British Artists (YBAs) of the 1990s are well represented by leading figures Damian Hirst, Tracey Emin and Sarah Lucas. A small space called Art Now is dedicated to contemporary artists.



The First Marriage (A Marriage of Styles I) **(1962) by David Hockney**



Captain Thomas Lee **(1594) by Marcus Gheeraerts II**



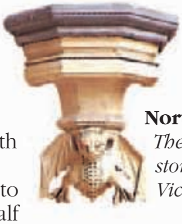
THE TURNER BEQUEST

The Turner Bequest comprises some 300 oil paintings and 20,000 watercolours and drawings, received by the nation from the great landscape painter J M W Turner some years after his death in 1851. Turner's will had specified that a gallery be built to house his pictures and this was finally done in 1987 with the opening of the Clore Galleries. Most of the oils are on view in the main galleries, and the watercolours are the subject of changing displays.

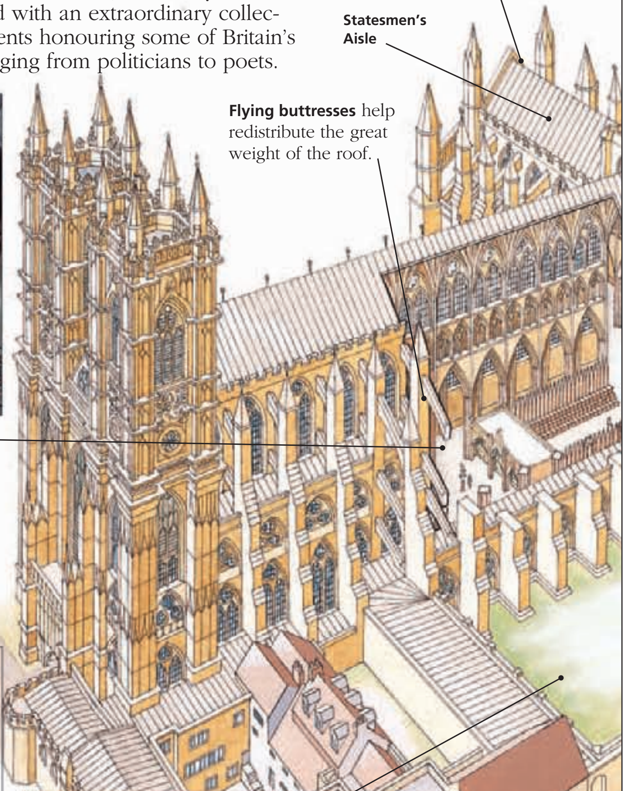
Shipping at the Mouth of the Thames **(c.1806–7)**

Westminster Abbey ⑳

Westminster Abbey has been the burial place of Britain's monarchs since the 11th century and the setting for many coronations and royal weddings. It is one of the most beautiful buildings in London, with an exceptionally diverse array of architectural styles, ranging from the austere French Gothic of the nave to the astonishing complexity of Henry VII's chapel. Half national church, half national museum, the abbey aisles and transepts are crammed with an extraordinary collection of tombs and monuments honouring some of Britain's greatest public figures, ranging from politicians to poets.



North Entrance
The mock-medieval stonework is Victorian.



Statesmen's Aisle

Flying buttresses help redistribute the great weight of the roof.

★ Nave
At a height of 31 m (102 ft), the nave is the highest in England. The ratio of height to width is 3:1.

CORONATION

The coronation ceremony is over 1,000 years old and since 1066, with the crowning of William the Conqueror on Christmas Day, the abbey has been its sumptuous setting. The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, in 1953, was the first to be televised.

Cloisters
Built mainly in the 13th and 14th centuries, the cloisters link the Abbey church with the other buildings.

STAR FEATURES

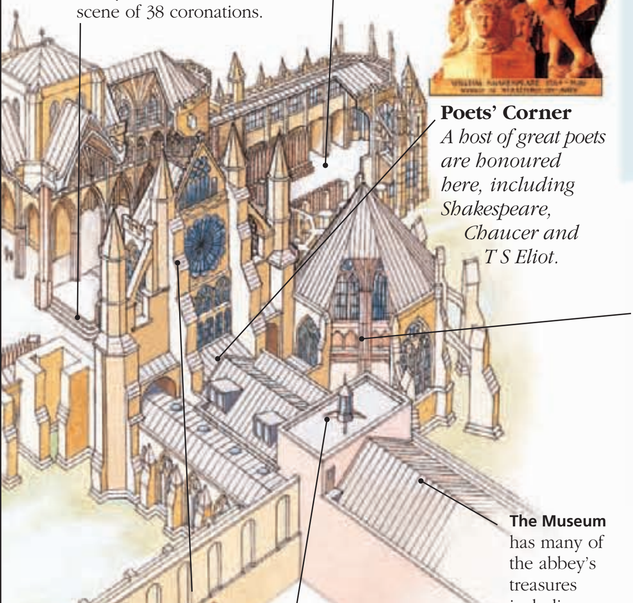
- ★ Nave
- ★ Henry VII Chapel
- ★ Chapter House

★ Henry VII Chapel
The chapel, built in 1503–19, has superb late Perpendicular vaulting and choir stalls dating from 1512.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Broad Sanctuary SW1. **Map** 11 B5. ***Tel*** *020 7222 5152.* ⊖ *Westminster.* 🚌 *3, 11, 12, 24, 29, 53, 70, 77, 77a, 88, 109, 159, 170.* ⇌ *Victoria.* ⛴ *Westminster Pier.* **Cloisters** ○ *9am–5:30pm daily.* **Abbey (Royal Chapels, Poets' Corner, Choir, Statesmen's Aisle, Nave)** ○ *9:30am–3:30pm Mon–Fri (to 6pm Wed), 9:30am–1:30pm Sat.* 📷 **Chapter House, Pyx Chamber & Museum** ○ *10:30am–4pm daily.* 📷 **College Garden** ○ *Apr–Sep: 10am–6pm Tue–Thu; Oct–Mar: 10am–4pm Tue–Thu.* **Evensong** *5pm Mon–Fri (evening prayers Wed), 3pm Sat, Sun.* **Concerts**. ☕ 🛍 **www**.westminster-abbey.org

The Sanctuary, built by Henry III, has been the scene of 38 coronations.



Poets' Corner
A host of great poets are honoured here, including Shakespeare, Chaucer and T S Eliot.

★ Chapter House
A beautiful octagonal room, remarkable for its 13th-century tile floor. It is lit by six huge stained glass windows showing scenes from the abbey's history.

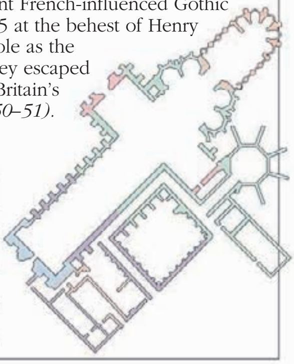
The Museum has many of the abbey's treasures including wood, plaster and wax effigies of monarchs.

The Pyx Chamber is where the coinage was tested in medieval times.

St Edward's Chapel
The shrine of Edward the Confessor is housed here, along with the tombs of many medieval monarchs.

HISTORICAL PLAN OF THE ABBEY

The first abbey church was established as early as the 10th century, but the present French-influenced Gothic structure was begun in 1245 at the behest of Henry III. Because of its unique role as the coronation church, the abbey escaped Henry VIII's onslaught on Britain's monastic buildings *(see pp50–51).*



KEY

- 🟩 Built between 1055–1350
- 🟪 Added from 1350–1420
- 🟧 Built between 1500–1512
- 🟦 Towers completed 1745
- 🟥 Restored after 1850

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK

This exclusive district embraces one of London's largest parks and some of its finest museums, shops, restaurants and hotels. Until the mid-19th century it was a genteel, semi-rural backwater of large houses and private schools lying to the south of Kensington Palace. In 1851, the Great Exhibition, until then the largest arts and science event ever staged *(see pp56–7),* was held in Hyde Park, transforming the area into a celebration of Victorian learning and self-confidence. The brainchild of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, the exhibition was a massive success and the profits were used to buy 35 ha (87 acres) of land in South Kensington. Here, Prince Albert encouraged the construction of a concert hall, museums and colleges devoted to the applied arts and sciences; most of them survive. The neighbourhood soon became modish, full of flamboyant red-brick mansion blocks, garden squares and the elite shops still to be found in Knightsbridge.

Peter Pan statue in Kensington Gardens

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

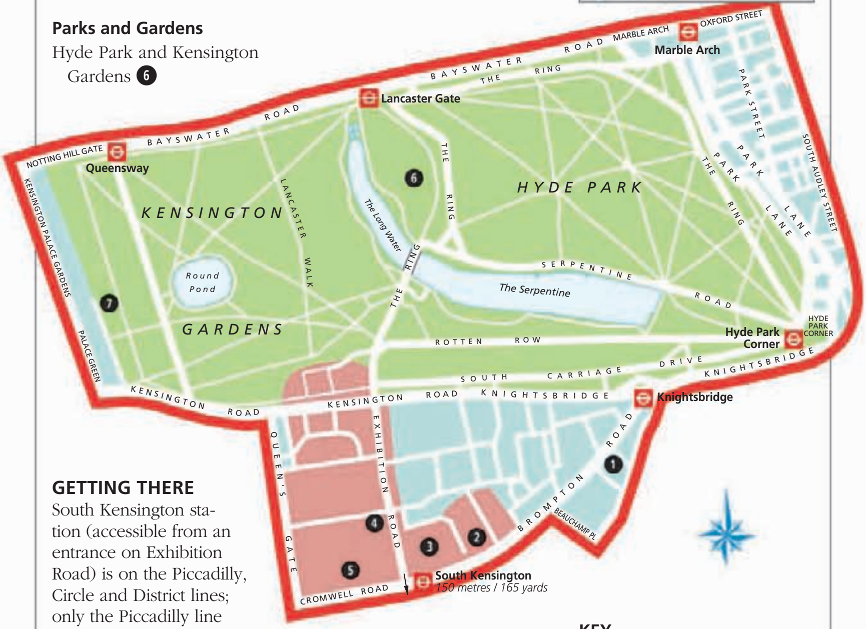
Historic Buildings
Kensington Palace ⑦

Churches
Brompton Oratory ②

Shops
Harrods ①

Parks and Gardens
Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens ⑥

Museums and Galleries
Natural History Museum ⑤
Science Museum ④
Victoria and Albert Museum pp98–9 ③


OXFORD STREET
MARBLE ARCH
Marble Arch
BAYSWATER ROAD
THE RING
Lancaster Gate
NOTTING HILL GATE
BAYSWATER ROAD
Queensway
KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS
KENSINGTON
GARDENS
LANCASTER WALK
Round Pond
The Long Water
THE RING
HYDE PARK
PARK STREET
THE RING
PARK LANE
SOUTH AUDLEY STREET
SERPENTINE ROAD
The Serpentine
ROTTEN ROW
HYDE PARK CORNER
Hyde Park Corner
PALACE GREEN
KENSINGTON ROAD
SOUTH CARRIAGE DRIVE
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
KENSINGTON ROAD
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
Knightsbridge
QUEEN'S GATE
EXHIBITION ROAD
BROMPTON ROAD
BEAUCHAMP PL
CROMWELL ROAD
South Kensington
150 metres / 165 yards
①
②
③
④
⑤
⑥
⑦

GETTING THERE

South Kensington station (accessible from an entrance on Exhibition Road) is on the Piccadilly, Circle and District lines; only the Piccadilly line passes through Knightsbridge and Hyde Park Corner. The No. 14 bus runs direct from Piccadilly Circus to South Kensington, via Knightsbridge.

0 metres 500
0 yards 500

KEY

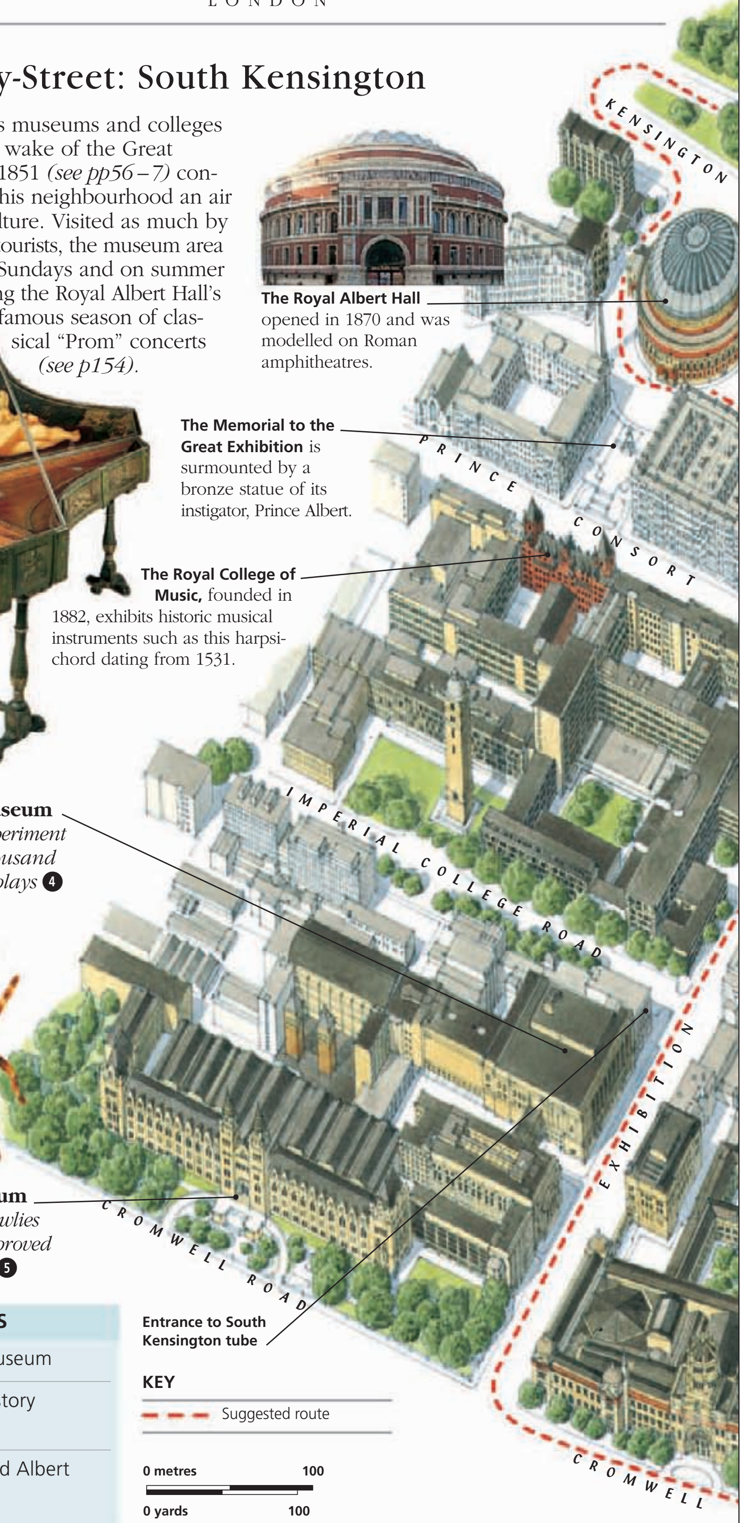
▨ Street-by-Street map *pp96–7*

⊖ Underground station

◁ **Ennismore Mews in South Kensington, built 1843–6**

Street-by-Street: South Kensington

The numerous museums and colleges created in the wake of the Great Exhibition of 1851 *(see pp56–7)* continue to give this neighbourhood an air of leisured culture. Visited as much by Londoners as tourists, the museum area is liveliest on Sundays and on summer evenings during the Royal Albert Hall's famous season of classical "Prom" concerts *(see p154)*.



The Royal Albert Hall opened in 1870 and was modelled on Roman amphitheatres.

The Memorial to the Great Exhibition is surmounted by a bronze statue of its instigator, Prince Albert.

The Royal College of Music, founded in 1882, exhibits historic musical instruments such as this harpsichord dating from 1531.

★ Science Museum
Visitors can experiment with over a thousand interactive displays ❹

★ Natural History Museum
The Creepy Crawlies exhibition has proved highly popular ❺

Entrance to South Kensington tube

STAR SIGHTS

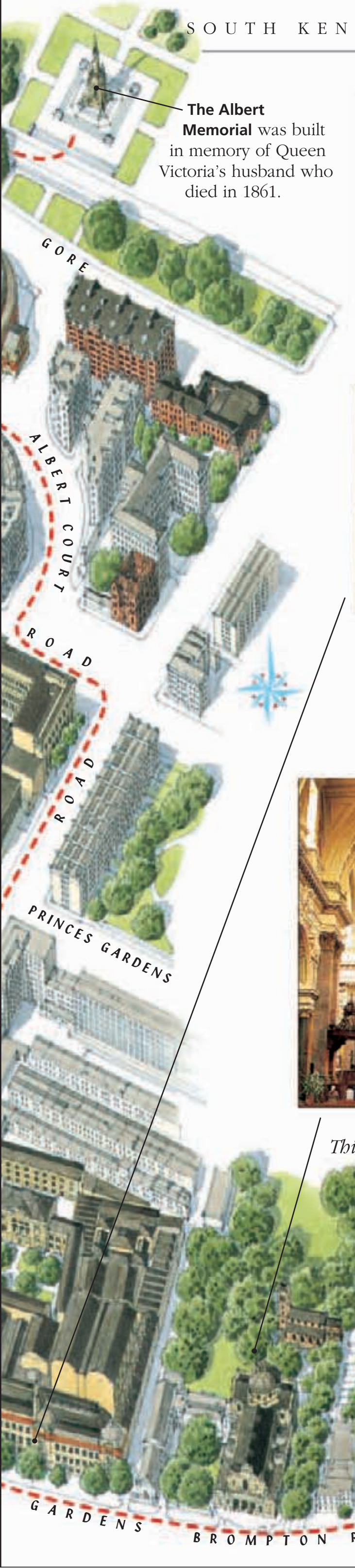
- ★ Science Museum
- ★ Natural History Museum
- ★ Victoria and Albert Museum

KEY

– – – Suggested route

0 metres **100**

0 yards **100**



The Albert Memorial was built in memory of Queen Victoria's husband who died in 1861.

REGENT'S PARK & BLOOMSBURY
WEST END & WESTMINSTER
SOUTH KENSINGTON & HYDE PARK

LOCATOR MAP
See Street Finder maps 8, 16, 17

★ Victoria and Albert Museum
The museum has a fine collection of applied arts and photography from around the world ❸

Brompton Oratory
This ornate Baroque church is famous for its splendid musical tradition ❷

Brompton Square (1821)

To Knightsbridge and Harrods

Harrods Food Hall

Harrods ❶

Knightsbridge SW1. **Map** 9 B5. ***Tel*** *020 7730 1234.* ⊖ *Knightsbridge.* ○ *10am–8pm Mon–Sat, noon–6pm Sun.* ♿ 🍴 🛍 *See* ***Shops and Markets*** *pp120–21.* **www**.harrods.com

In 1849 Henry Charles Harrod opened a small grocery shop on Brompton Road, which soon became famous for its impeccable service and quality. The store moved into these extravagant premises in Knightsbridge in 1905.

Brompton Oratory ❷

Brompton Rd SW7. **Map** 17 B1. ***Tel*** *020 7808 0900.* ⊖ *South Kensington.* ○ *6:30am–8pm daily.* ♿ 🛍 **www**.bromptonoratory.com

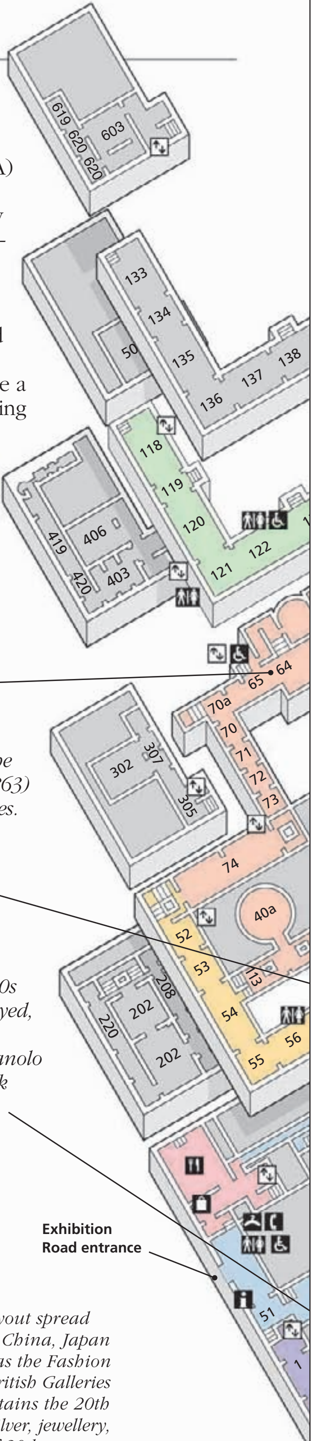
The Italianate Oratory is a lavish monument to the 19th-century English Catholic revival. It was established as a base for a community of priests by John Henry Newman (later Cardinal Newman), who introduced the Oratorian movement to England in 1848. The church was opened in 1884, and the dome and façade added in the 1890s.

The sumptuous interior holds many fine monuments. The 12 huge 17th-century statues of the apostles are from Siena Cathedral, the elaborate Baroque Lady Altar (1693) is from the Dominican church at Brescia, and the 18th-century altar in St Wilfred's Chapel is from Rochefort in Belgium.

Victoria and Albert Museum ❸

The Glass gallery, room 131

The Victoria and Albert Museum (the V&A) contains one of the world's widest collections of art and design, ranging from early Christian devotional objects and the mystical art of southeast Asia to cutting-edge furniture design. Originally founded in 1852 as the Museum of Manufactures to inspire students of design, it was renamed by Queen Victoria in 1899 in memory of Prince Albert. The museum has undergone a dramatic redisplay of its collection, including work on the Ceramics galleries, Sackler Education Centre and Medieval and Renaissance galleries, which span three levels. The Gilbert Collection also opened here in 2009.



Silver galleries
Radiant pieces such as the Burgess Cup (Britain, 1863) fill these stunning galleries.

★ British Galleries
The Great Bed of Ware has been a tourist attraction since 1601, when Shakespeare sparked interest in it by making reference to it in Twelfth Night.

KEY TO FLOORPLAN

- 🟪 Level 0
- 🟦 Level 1
- 🟨 Level 2
- 🟧 Level 3
- 🟥 Level 4
- 🟦 Level 6
- 🟥 Henry Cole Wing
- ⬜ Non-exhibition space

STAR EXHIBITS

- ★ British Galleries
- ★ Fashion gallery
- ★ Medieval and Renaissance galleries
- ★ Islamic Middle East gallery

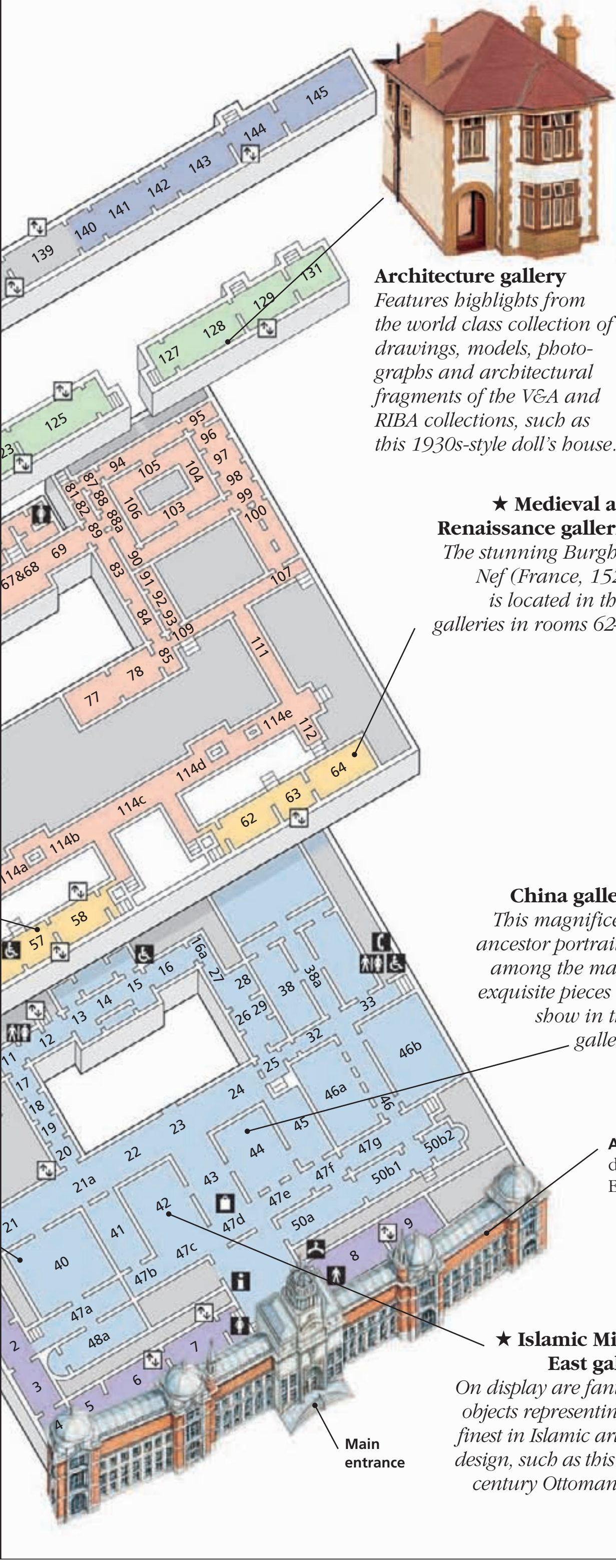
★ Fashion gallery
In this gallery, European clothing from the mid-1500s to the present day is displayed, such as these floral Manolo Blahnik shoes.

GALLERY GUIDE

The V&A has a 7-mile (11-km) layout spread over six levels. Level 1, houses the China, Japan and South Asia galleries, as well as the Fashion gallery and the Cast Courts. The British Galleries are on levels 2 and 4. Level 3 contains the 20th Century galleries and displays of silver, jewellery, ironwork, paintings and works of 20th-century design. The glass display is also on upper level 4. The Ceramics galleries are on level 6. The Henry Cole Wing houses the Sackler Education Centre, RIBA Architecture Study Rooms and the Prints and Drawings Study Rooms.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Cromwell Rd SW7. **Map** 17 A1.
Tel *020 7942 2000.*
⊖ *South Kensington.*
🚌 *14, 74, 414, C1.* ○ *10am–5:45pm daily (10am–10pm last Fri of each month).*
● *24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🗣 🍴
☕ 🛍 **www**.vam.ac.uk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50b1
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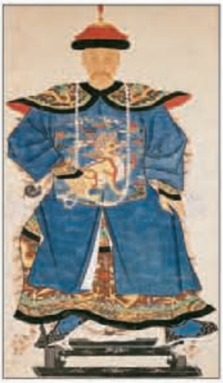
Main entrance

Architecture gallery
Features highlights from the world class collection of drawings, models, photographs and architectural fragments of the V&A and RIBA collections, such as this 1930s-style doll's house.

★ Medieval and Renaissance galleries
The stunning Burghley Nef (France, 1527) is located in these galleries in rooms 62–4.



China gallery
This magnificent ancestor portrait is among the many exquisite pieces on show in this gallery.

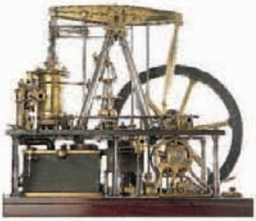
Aston Webb's façade (1909) is decorated with 32 sculptures of English craftsmen and designers.

★ Islamic Middle East gallery
On display are fantastic objects representing the finest in Islamic art and design, such as this 16th-century Ottoman table.

Science Museum ❹

Exhibition Rd SW7. **Map** 16 F1. ***Tel*** *0870 870 4868.* ⊖ *South Kensington.* ○ *10am–6pm daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.* ▨ *for IMAX, special exhibitions and simulators only.* ♿ ✋ ☕ 🛍
www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Centuries of continuing scientific and technological development lie at the heart of the Science Museum's massive collections. The hardware displayed is magnificent: from steam engines to aero-engines; spacecraft to the very first mechanical computers. Equally important is the social context of science – what discoveries and inventions mean for day-to-day life – and the process of discovery itself. There are many interactive and hands-on displays which are very popular with children.



Newcomen's Steam Engine (1712), Science Museum

The museum is spread over seven floors and includes the high-tech Wellcome Wing at the west end of the museum. The basement features the excellent hands-on galleries for children, including The Garden. The Energy Hall dominates the ground floor, and is dedicated to steam power, with the still-operational Harle Syke Mill Engine of 1903. Here too are Space and Making the Modern World, a highlight of which is the display of the scarred Apollo 10 spacecraft, which carried three astronauts to the moon and back in May 1969. In Challenge of Materials, located on the first floor, our expectations of materials are confounded with exhibits such as a bridge made of glass and a steel wedding dress.

The Flight gallery on the third floor is packed with early flying contraptions, fighter planes, aeroplanes and the Launchpad. The fourth and fifth floors house the medical science galleries, where Science and the Art of Medicine has a 17th-century Italian vase for storing snake bite treatment.

The high-tech Wellcome Wing offers four floors of interactive technology, including 'Who Am I?', a fascinating exhibition exploring the science of you. With an IMAX 3D Cinema and the SimEx simulator ride, it is a breathtaking addition to the museum. The museum cafés and shop are particularly good.

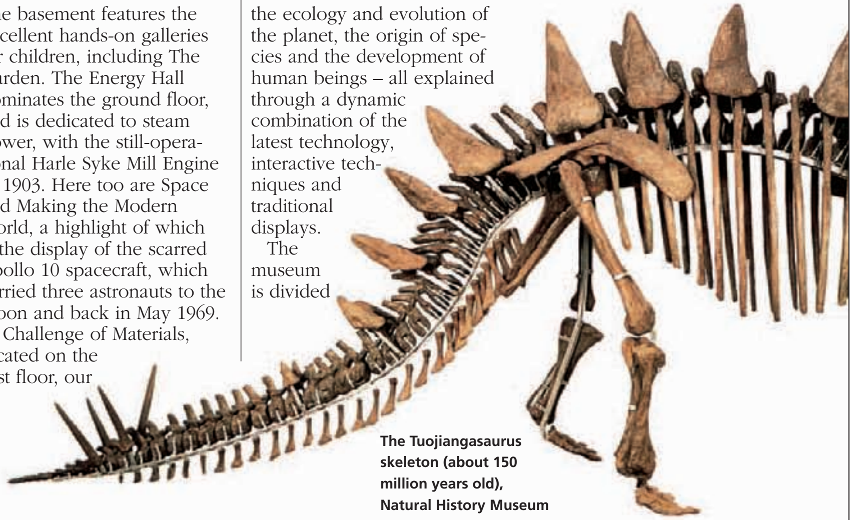
Natural History Museum ❺

Cromwell Rd SW7. **Map** 16 F1. ***Tel*** *020 7942 5000.* ⊖ *South Kensington.* ○ *10am–5:50pm daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.* 🛍 ♿ ✋ ☕
www.nhm.ac.uk

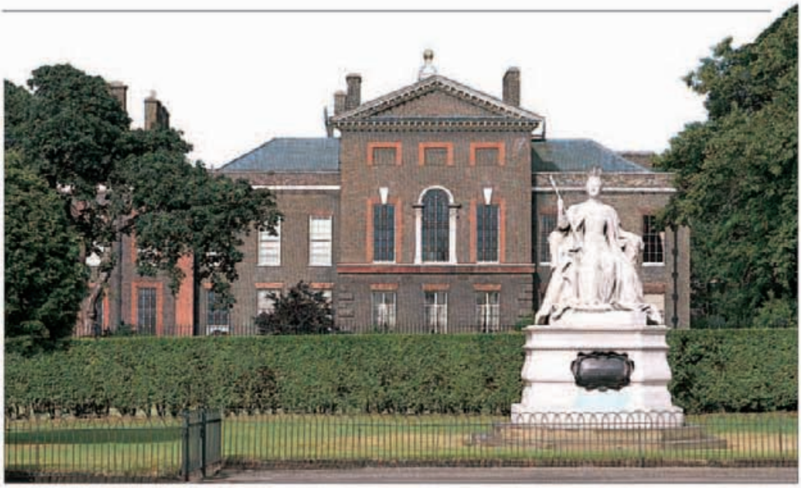
This cathedral-like building's richly sculpted stonework conceals an iron and steel frame; this construction technique was revolutionary when the museum opened in 1881. The imaginative displays tackle fundamental issues such as the ecology and evolution of the planet, the origin of species and the development of human beings – all explained through a dynamic combination of the latest technology, interactive techniques and traditional displays.

Relief from a decorative panel in the Natural History Museum

The museum is divided into four sections: the Blue Zone, Green Zone, Red Zone and the Orange Zone. In the Blue Zone, the Ecology exhibition explores the complex web of the natural world through a replica of a moonlit rainforest buzzing with the sounds of insects. One of the most popular exhibits is the Dinosaur Gallery, which includes life-like animatronic models of dinosaurs. The Vault, located in the Green Zone, contains a dazzling collection of the finest gems, crystals, metals and meteorites from around the world. The Darwin Centre, which opened in 2009, is the largest curved structure in Europe. The eight-storey-high cocoon houses the museum's vast collection of insects and plants.



The Tuojiangasaurus skeleton (about 150 million years old), Natural History Museum



Statue of the young Queen Victoria outside Kensington Palace, sculpted by her daughter, Princess Louise

Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens ❻

W2. **Map** 9 B3. ***Tel*** *020 7298 2000.* **Hyde Park** ⊖ *Hyde Park Corner, Knightsbridge, Lancaster Gate, Marble Arch.* ○ *dawn–midnight daily.* ♿ **Kensington Gardens.** ***Tel*** *020 7298 2000.* ⊖ *Queensway, Lancaster Gate.* ○ *dawn–dusk daily.* ♿ ☕ *See also pp74–5.* **Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground** ⊖ *Queensway, Bayswater.* ○ *10am–dusk daily.* ♿ ☕ **www**.royalparks.org.uk

The ancient manor of Hyde was part of the lands of Westminster Abbey seized by Henry VIII at the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 *(see pp50–51)*. James I opened the park to the public in the early 17th century, and it was soon one of the city's most fashionable public spaces. Unfortunately it also became popular with duellists and highwaymen, and consequently William III had 300 lights hung along Rotten Row, the first street in England to be lit up at night. In 1730, the Westbourne River was dammed by Queen Caroline in order to create the Serpentine, an artificial lake that is today used for boating and swimming, and Rotten Row for horse riding. The park is also a rallying point for political demonstrations, while at Speaker's Corner, in the northeast, anyone has had the right to address the public since 1872. Sundays are particularly lively, with many budding orators and a number of eccentrics revealing their plans for the betterment of mankind.

Adjoining Hyde Park is Kensington Gardens, the former grounds of Kensington Palace. Three great attractions for children are the innovative Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground, the bronze statue of J M Barrie's fictional Peter Pan (1912), by George Frampton, and the Round Pond where people sail model boats. Also worth-seeing is the dignified Orangery (1704), once used by Queen Anne as a "summer supper house" and now a summer café.

Detail of the Coalbrookdale Gate, Kensington Gardens

Kensington Palace ❼

Kensington Palace Gdns W8. **Map** 8 D4. ***Tel*** *0844 482 7777.* ⊖ *High St Ken, Queensway.* ○ *Nov–Feb: 10am–5pm daily; Mar–Oct: 10am–6pm daily (last adm: 1 hr before close).* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 🛍 ☞ ♿ *ground floor.* ☕ **www**.hrp.org.uk

Kensington Palace was the principal residence of the royal family from the 1690s until 1760, when George III moved to Buckingham Palace. Over the years it has seen a number of important royal events. In 1714 Queen Anne died here from a fit of apoplexy brought on by over-eating and, in June 1837, Princess Victoria of Kent was woken to be told that her uncle William IV had died and she was now queen – the beginning of her 64-year reign. Half of the palace still holds royal apartments, but the other half is open to the public. Among the highlights are the 18th-century state rooms with ceilings and murals by William Kent *(see p28)*. After the death of Princess Diana in 1997, the palace became a focal point for mourners who gathered in their thousands at its gates and turned the area into a field of bouquets.

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY

Cream stuccoed terraces built by John Nash *(see p105)* fringe the southern edge of Regent's Park in London's highest concentration of quality Georgian housing. The park, named for the Prince Regent, was also designed by Nash, as the culmination of a triumphal route from the Prince's house in St James's *(see pp84–5)*. Today it is the busiest of the royal parks and boasts a zoo, an open air theatre, boating lake, rose garden, cafés and London's largest mosque. To the northeast is Camden Town *(see p124)* with its popular market, shops and cafés, reached by walking, or taking a boat, along the picturesque Regent's Canal.

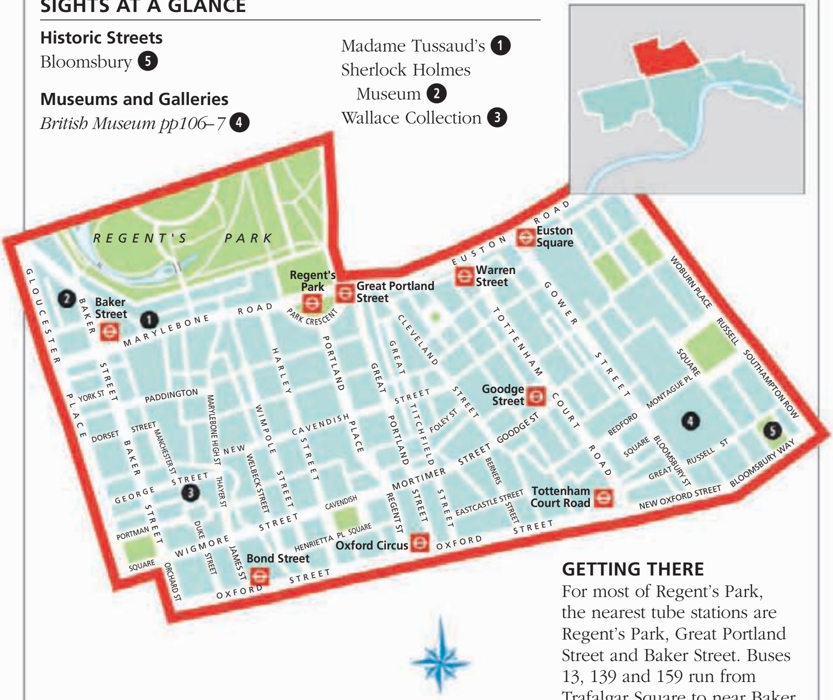
Ancient Greek vase, British Museum

Bloomsbury, an enclave of attractive garden squares and Georgian brick terraces, was one of the most fashionable areas of the city until the mid-19th century, when the arrival of large hospitals and railway stations persuaded many of the wealthier residents to move west to Mayfair, Knightsbridge and Kensington. Home to the British Museum since 1753 and the University of London since 1828, Bloomsbury has long been the domain of artists, writers and intellectuals, including the Bloomsbury Group *(see p163)*, George Bernard Shaw, Charles Dickens and Karl Marx. Traditionally a centre for the book trade, it remains a good place for literary browsing.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Historic Streets
Bloomsbury ⑤

Museums and Galleries
British Museum pp106–7 ④
Madame Tussaud's ①
Sherlock Holmes Museum ②
Wallace Collection ③


REGENT'S PARK
GLOUCESTER PLACE
BAKER STREET
Baker Street
MARYLEBONE ROAD
Regent's Park
Great Portland Street
PARK CRESCENT
EUSTON ROAD
Warren Street
Euston Square
GOWER STREET
WOBURN PLACE
RUSSELL SQUARE
SOUTHAMPTON ROW
MONTAGUE PL
TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
CLEVELAND
GREAT PORTLAND STREET
GREAT TITCHFIELD STREET
HARLEY STREET
PORTLAND PLACE
YORK ST
PADDINGTON STREET
DORSET
MANCHESTER ST
MARYLEBONE HIGH ST
NEW CAVENDISH STREET
WIMPOLE STREET
WELBECK STREET
FOLEY ST
Goodge Street
GOODGE ST
BEDFORD SQUARE
BLOOMSBURY ST
GREAT RUSSELL ST
BLOOMSBURY WAY
NEW OXFORD STREET
GEORGE STREET
THAYER ST
MORTIMER STREET
BERNERS STREET
EASTCASTLE STREET
Tottenham Court Road
CAVENDISH SQUARE
HENRIETTA PL
Oxford Circus
REGENT ST
PORTMAN SQUARE
WIGMORE STREET
DUKE STREET
JAMES ST
ORCHARD ST
Bond Street
OXFORD STREET
1
2
3
4
5

KEY

🚇 Underground station

0 metres 500
0 yards 500

GETTING THERE

For most of Regent's Park, the nearest tube stations are Regent's Park, Great Portland Street and Baker Street. Buses 13, 139 and 159 run from Trafalgar Square to near Baker Street. The closest station to the zoo is Camden Town. Russell Square tube station is in the heart of Bloomsbury.

◁ **St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park**

Madame Tussaud's ❶

Marylebone Rd NW1. **Map** 2 D5.
☎ *0870 400 3000.* ⊖ *Baker St.*
○ *9:30am–5:30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–6pm Sat, Sun & school hols.*
● *25 Dec.* 🛍 📷 ♿ *phone first.*
🖥 **www**.madame-tussauds.com

Wax figure of Elizabeth II

Madame Tussaud began her wax-modelling career making death masks of victims of the French Revolution. She moved to England and in 1835 set up an exhibition of her work in Baker Street, near the present site. Traditional techniques are still used to create figures of royalty, politicians, actors, pop stars and sporting heroes. The main sections of the exhibition are: Blush, where visitors get to feel what it is like to be at a celebrity A-list party; Première Night, devoted to the giants of the entertainment world; and the World Stage, a collection of various royalty, statesmen, world leaders, writers and artists.

The Chamber of Horrors is the most renowned part of Madame Tussaud's for its recreations of murders and executions. In the Spirit of London finale, visitors travel in stylized taxi-cabs through the city's history to "witness" events, from the Great Fire of 1666 to the Swinging 1960s. Ticket prices also include entry to temporary exhibitions featuring media icons of the moment. Educational tours are also available for groups.

Wax model of Luciano Pavarotti (1990), Madame Tussaud's

Conan Doyle's fictional detective Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock Holmes Museum ❷

221b Baker St NW1. **Map** 1 C4.
Tel *020-7935 1127.* ⊖ *Baker St.* ○ *9:30am–6pm daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 📷 🛍
www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective was supposed to live at 221b Baker Street, which did not exist. The museum, labelled 221b, actually stands between Nos. 237 and 239, and is the only surviving Victorian lodging house in the street. There is a reconstruction of Holmes's front room, and memorabilia from the stories decorate every room. Visitors can buy plaques, Holmes hats, Toby jugs and meerschaum pipes.

Wallace Collection ❸

Hertford House, Manchester Sq W1.
Map 10 D1. ☎ *020-7563 9500.*
⊖ *Bond St, Baker St.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *24–26 Dec, 1 Jan, Good Fri.* ♿ *phone first.* 🍴 🛍
www.wallacecollection.org

One of the world's finest private collections of European art, it has remained intact since 1897. The product of passionate collecting by four generations of the Seymour-Conway family who were Marquesses of Hertford, it was bequeathed to the state on the condition that it would go on permanent public display with nothing added or taken away. Hertford House still retains the atmosphere of a grand 19th-century house, and the Centenary Project in 1997 created more gallery space and a stunning high-level glass roof for the central courtyard, which now contains a sculpture garden and an elegant restaurant.

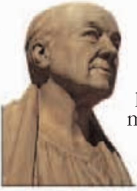
The 3rd Marquess (1777–1842), a flamboyant London figure, used his Italian wife's fortune to buy works by Titian and Canaletto, along with numerous 17th-century Dutch paintings including works by Van Dyck. The collection's particular strength is 18th-century French painting, sculpture and decorative arts, acquired by the 4th Marquess (1800–70) and his natural son, Sir Richard Wallace (1818–90).

A 16th-century Italian majolica dish from the Wallace Collection

The Marquess had a taste for lush romanticism, and notable among his acquisitions are Watteau's *Champs Elysées* (1716–17), Fragonard's *The Swing* (1766) and Boucher's *The Rising and Setting of the Sun* (1753).

Other highlights at the Wallace Collection include Rembrandt's *Titus, the Artist's Son* (1650s), Titian's *Perseus and Andromeda* (1554–6) and Hals's famous *Laughing Cavalier* (1624). There is also an important collection of Renaissance armour, and superb examples of Sèvres porcelain and Italian majolica.

John Nash's Regency London

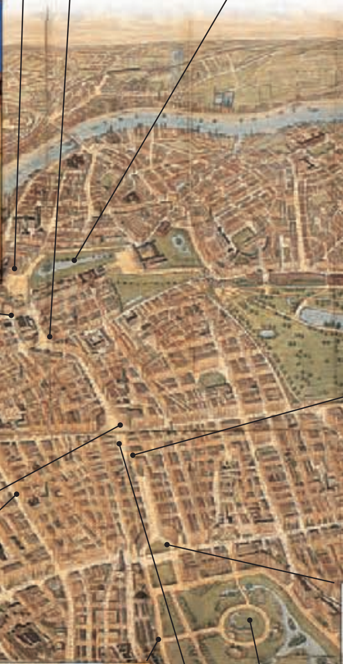


Statue of John Nash (1752–1835)

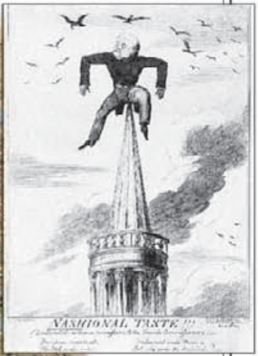
John Nash, the son of a Lambeth millwright, was designing houses from the 1780s. However, it was not until the 1820s that he also became known as an inspired town planner, when his "royal route" was completed. This took George IV from his Pall Mall palace, through Piccadilly Circus and up the elegant sweep of Regent Street to Regent's Park, which Nash bordered with rows of beautiful Neo-Classical villas, such as Park Crescent and Cumberland Terrace. Though many of his plans were never completed, this map of 1851, which unusually places the south at the top, shows Nash's overall architectural impact on London. His other work included the revamping of Buckingham Palace *(see pp86–7)*, and the building of several theatres and churches.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET

The Theatre Royal Haymarket *has retained Nash's 1821 Corinthian portico, but its interior was totally rebuilt in 1905.*



Pall Mall
Piccadilly Circus *(see p81)*
St James's Park *(see pp74–5)*
Oxford Circus
Tottenham Court Road
Regent Street
Regent's Park *(see p103)*



NASHIONAL TASTE !!!

All Souls, Langham Place *is shown in this 1824 cartoon which lampoons Nash for his unorthodox design.*

Park Crescent *was designed by Nash to be the southern half of a circle, but the northern half was never built. The interiors were refurbished in the 1960s but the dramatic façade was kept intact.*

Cumberland Terrace, *the longest and most ornate of the stuccoed terraces surrounding Regent's Park, was intended to face a royal palace, which was never built.*

British Museum ❹

Helmet from Sutton Hoo ship burial

The oldest public museum in the world, the British Museum was established in 1753 to house the collections of the physician Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753). Sloane's collection has been added to by gifts and purchases from all over the world, and the museum now contains objects spanning thousands of years. The main part of the building (1823–50) is by architect Robert Smirke, but the architectural highlight is the modern Great Court, with the Reading Room at its centre.

★ Egyptian Mummies

Animals such as this cat (30 BC) were preserved alongside humans by the ancient Egyptians.

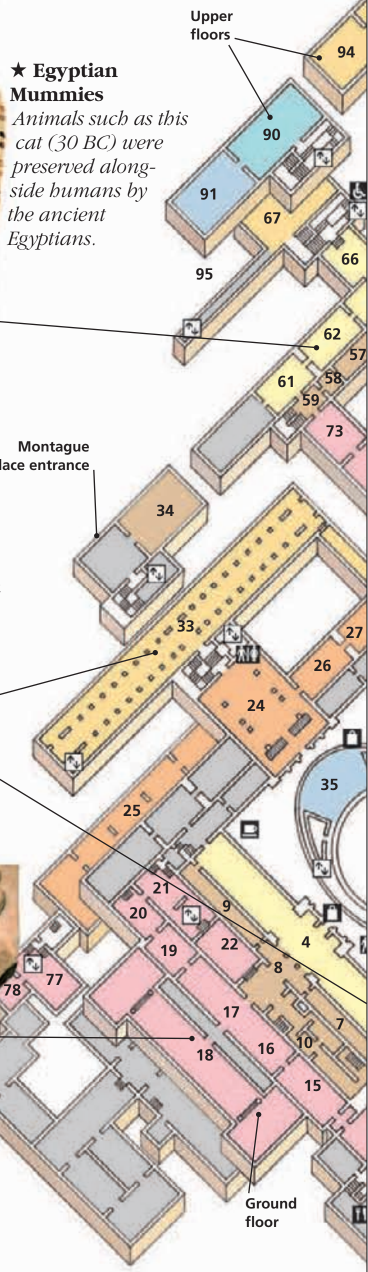
Bronze Figure Shiva Nataraja

This statue of the Hindu God Shiva Nataraja (c.1100) from South India forms part of the fine collection of Oriental art.

The Egyptian Gallery on the main floor houses the Rosetta Stone, the inscription that enabled 19th-century scholars to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphs.

★ Parthenon Sculptures

These reliefs from the Parthenon in Athens were brought to London by Lord Elgin around 1802 and are housed in a special gallery.



GALLERY GUIDE

The Greek and Roman, and Middle Eastern collections are found on all three levels of the museum, predominantly on the west side. The African collection is located on the lower floor, while Asian exhibits are found on the main and upper floors on the north side of the museum. The Americas collection is located in the northeast corner of the ground floor. Egyptian artifacts are found in the large gallery to the west of the Great Court and on the first floor.

STAR EXHIBITS

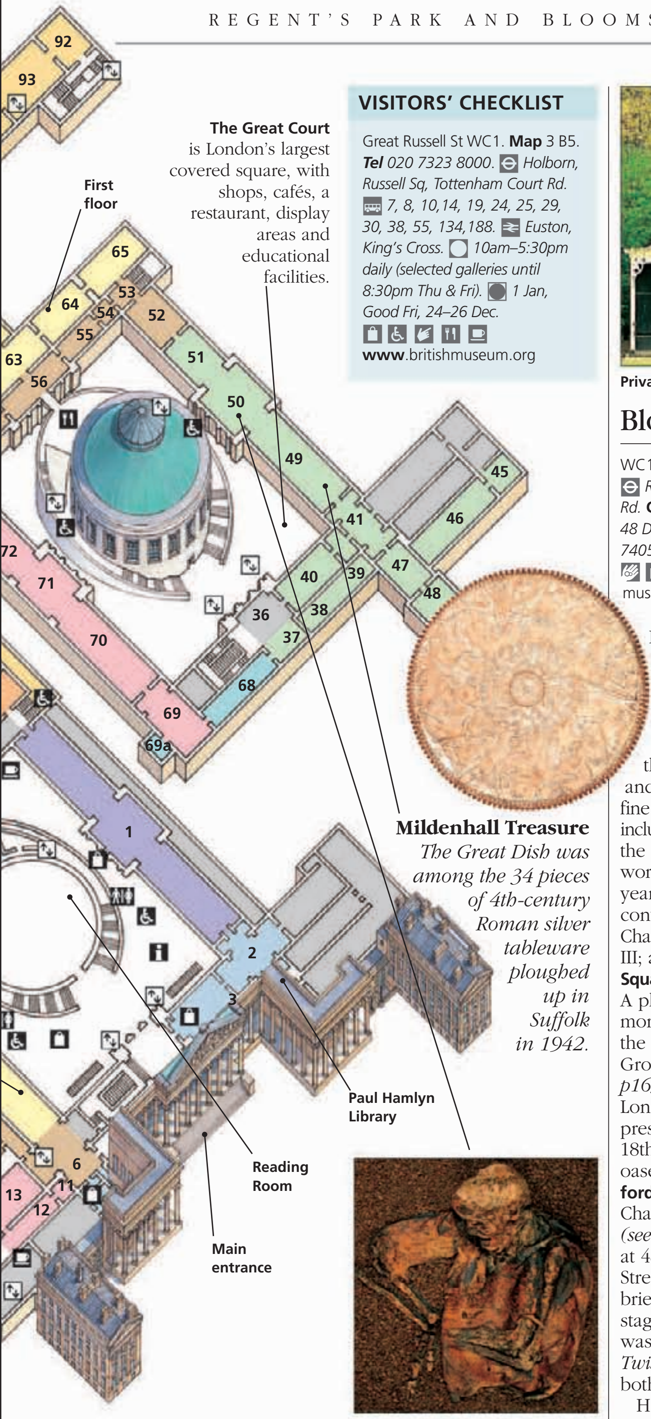
- ★ Egyptian Mummies
- ★ Parthenon Sculptures
- ★ Lindow Man

KEY TO FLOORPLAN

- 🟨 Asian collection
- 🟪 Enlightenment
- 🟦 Coins and medals
- 🟥 Greek and Roman collection
- 🟨 Egyptian collection
- 🟫 Middle Eastern collection
- 🟩 Europe collection
- 🟦 Temporary exhibitions
- ⬜ Non-exhibition space
- 🟧 Africa, Oceania and the Americas

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Great Russell St WC1. **Map** 3 B5. ***Tel*** *020 7323 8000.* ⊖ *Holborn, Russell Sq, Tottenham Court Rd.* 🚌 *7, 8, 10,14, 19, 24, 25, 29, 30, 38, 55, 134,188.* ⇌ *Euston, King's Cross.* ○ *10am–5:30pm daily (selected galleries until 8:30pm Thu & Fri).* ● *1 Jan, Good Fri, 24–26 Dec.*
🛍 ♿ 🎧 🍴 ☕
www.britishmuseum.org



The Great Court is London's largest covered square, with shops, cafés, a restaurant, display areas and educational facilities.

Mildenhall Treasure
The Great Dish was among the 34 pieces of 4th-century Roman silver tableware ploughed up in Suffolk in 1942.

★ Lindow Man
The skin on this 2,000-year-old human body was preserved by the acids of a peat-bog in Cheshire. He was probably killed in an elaborate ritual.

Private gardens of Bedford Square

Bloomsbury ❺

WC1. **Map** 3 B4.
⊖ *Russell Sq, Tottenham Court Rd.* **Charles Dickens Museum** *48 Doughty St WC1.* ***Tel*** *020 7405 2127.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.*
✋ 🛍 **www**.dickens museum.com

Home to numerous writers and artists, Bloomsbury is a traditional centre of the book trade. It is dominated by the British Museum and the University of London and characterized by several fine Georgian squares. These include **Russell Square**, where the poet T S Eliot (1888–1965) worked for a publisher for 40 years; **Queen Square**, which contains a statue of Queen Charlotte, wife of George III; and **Bloomsbury Square**, laid out in 1661. A plaque here commemorates members of the Bloomsbury Group *(see p163)*. One of London's best-preserved 18th-century oases is **Bedford Square**. Charles Dickens *(see p189)* lived at 48 Doughty Street during a brief but critical stage in his career, and it was here that he wrote *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, both completed in 1839.

His former home is now the **Charles Dickens Museum**, which has rooms laid out as they were in Dickens's time, with objects taken from his other London homes and first editions of many of his works.

Queen Charlotte (1744–1818)

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK

Old bank sign on Lombard Street

Dominated today by glossy office blocks, the City is the oldest part of the capital. The Great Fire of 1666 obliterated four-fifths of its buildings. Sir Christopher Wren rebuilt much of it and many of his churches survived World War II *(see pp58–9)*. Commerce has always been the City's lifeblood, and the power of its merchants and bankers secured it a degree of autonomy from state control. Humming with activity in business hours, it empties at night.

In the Middle Ages Southwark, on the south bank of the Thames, was a refuge for pleasure-seekers, prostitutes, gamblers and criminals. Even after 1550, when the area fell under the jurisdiction of the City, its brothels and taverns thrived. There were also several bear-baiting arenas in which plays were staged until the building of theatres such as the Globe (1598), where many of Shakespeare's works were first performed. Relics of old Southwark are mostly on the waterfront, which has been imaginatively redeveloped and provided with a pleasant walkway.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Historic Sights and Buildings

HMS Belfast ⓬
Lloyd's Building ❼
Monument ❽
The Old Operating Theatre ⓮
Temple ❸
Tower Bridge ❿
Tower of London pp118–19 ❾

Pubs

George Inn ⓯

Museums and Galleries

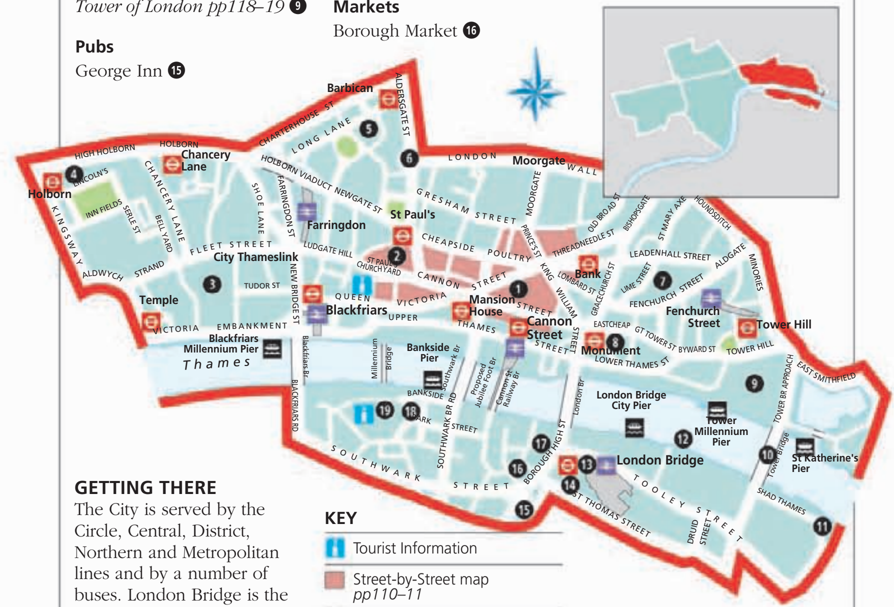
Design Museum ⓫
London Dungeon ⓭
Museum of London ❻
Shakespeare's Globe ⓲
Sir John Soane's Museum ❹
Tate Modern ⓳

Markets

Borough Market ⓰

Churches and Cathedrals

St Bartholomew-the-Great ❺
St Paul's Cathedral pp114–15 ❷
St Stephen Walbrook ❶
Southwark Cathedral ⓱


Barbican
ALDERSGATE ST
CHARTERHOUSE ST
LONG LANE
HIGH HOLBORN
HOLBORN
Chancery Lane
Holborn
LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS
KINGSWAY
SERLE ST
CHANCERY LANE
BELL YARD
SHOE LANE
FARRINGDON ST
HOLBORN VIADUCT
NEWGATE ST
LONDON WALL
Moorgate
MOORGATE
GRESHAM STREET
St Paul's
Farringdon
FLEET STREET
City Thameslink
LUDGATE HILL
ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD
CHEAPSIDE
POULTRY
PRINCES ST
OLD BROAD ST
BISHOPSGATE
ST MARY AXE
HOUNDSDITCH
THREADNEEDLE ST
LEADENHALL STREET
ALDGATE
MINORIES
Bank
LOMBARD ST
KING WILLIAM ST
GRACECHURCH ST
LIME STREET
FENCHURCH STREET
Fenchurch Street
Tower Hill
ALDWYCH
STRAND
TUDOR ST
Temple
NEW BRIDGE ST
QUEEN VICTORIA STREET
CANNON STREET
Blackfriars
UPPER THAMES
Mansion House
Cannon Street
EASTCHEAP
GT TOWER ST
BYWARD ST
TOWER HILL
Monument
LOWER THAMES ST
VICTORIA EMBANKMENT
Blackfriars Millennium Pier
Thames
Blackfriars Br
Millennium Bridge
Bankside Pier
Southwark Br
Proposed Jubilee Foot Br
Cannon St Railway Br
London Br
London Bridge City Pier
Tower Millennium Pier
EAST SMITHFIELD
TOWER BR APPROACH
BANKSIDE
PARK STREET
SOUTHWARK BR RD
BLACKFRIARS RD
SOUTHWARK STREET
BOROUGH HIGH ST
London Bridge
TOOLEY STREET
ST THOMAS STREET
DRUID STREET
Tower Bridge
St Katherine's Pier
SHAD THAMES
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
0 metres 500
0 yards 500

GETTING THERE

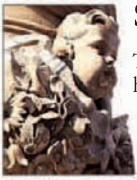
The City is served by the Circle, Central, District, Northern and Metropolitan lines and by a number of buses. London Bridge is the main station for Southwark – served by the Northern and Jubilee lines and by trains running from Charing Cross, Cannon Street and Waterloo.

KEY

- ℹ Tourist Information
- ▨ Street-by-Street map *pp110–11*
- ⊖ Underground station
- ⊞ Railway station
- ⛴ River boat pier

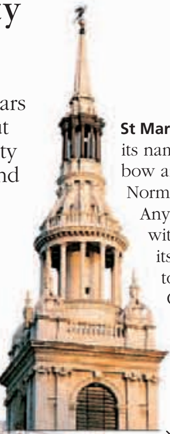
◁ **Gothic towers of London's Tower Bridge, built in 1894**

Street-by-Street: The City

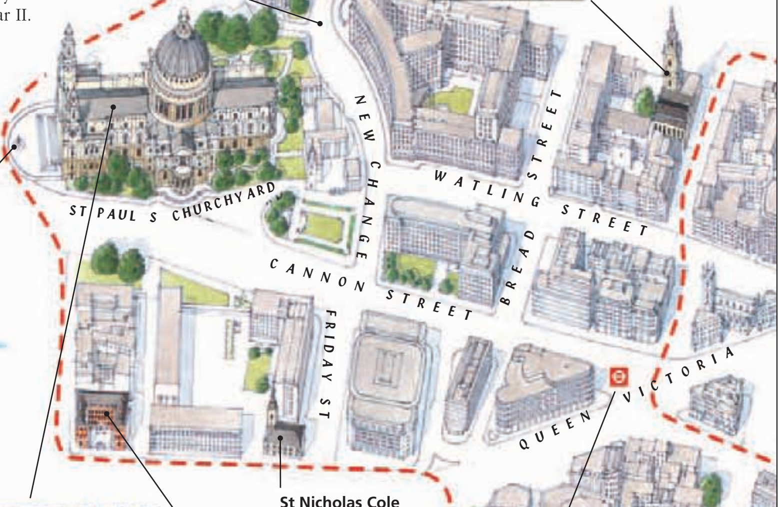


Detail: St Paul's Cathedral

This is the financial heart of London and has been ever since the Romans set up a trading post here 2,000 years ago. For years it was London's main residential area but today very few people live here. The City was severely bombed in World War II and the main clues to its past are streets named after vanished inns and markets. Its numerous churches, many built after the Great Fire of 1666 by the architect Sir Christopher Wren *(see p114)*, are now dwarfed by lavish banks and post-modern developments.



St Mary-le-Bow takes its name from the bow arches in the Norman crypt. Anyone born within earshot of its bells is said to be a true Cockney.



St Paul's station

New Change replaces Old Change, a 13th-century street destroyed in World War II.

Statue of Queen Anne

St Nicholas Cole Abbey was the first church Wren built in the City (in 1677). It had to be restored after World War II bomb damage.

Mansion House station

St James Garlickhythe contains unusual sword rests and hat stands, beneath Wren's elegant spire of 1717.

★ St Paul's Cathedral
Built after the Great Fire of 1666, Wren's masterpiece was funded by a tax on coal ❷

COLLEGE · OF · ARMS

The College of Arms is the official repository of the coats of arms and pedigrees of British families *(see p30)*. It was rebuilt here, on its former site, in the 1670s after the Great Fire.

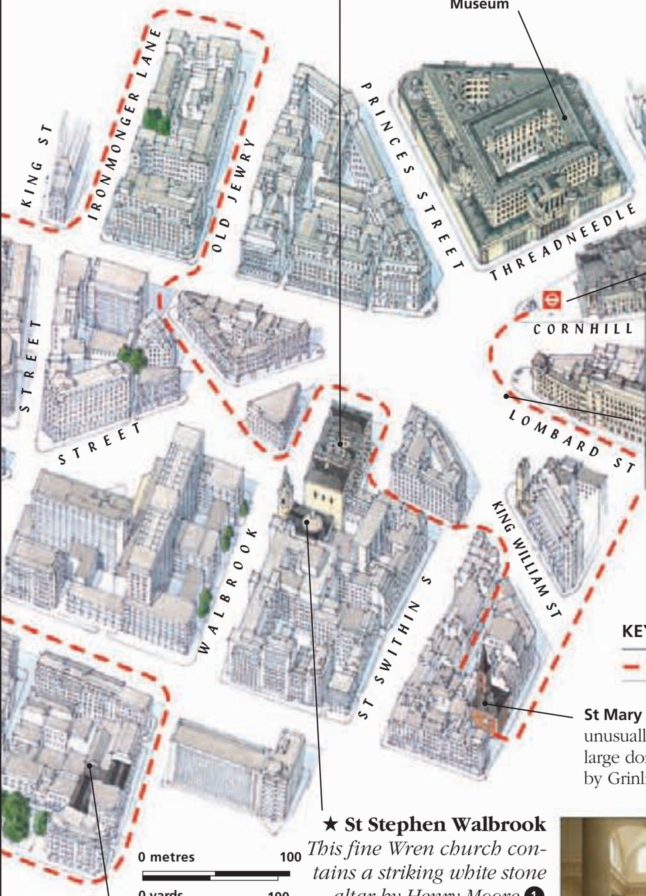
STAR SIGHTS

- ★ St Paul's Cathedral
- ★ St Stephen Walbrook

Mansion House (1753), designed by George Dance the Elder, is the official home of the Lord Mayor. The Palladian façade is a familiar City landmark.

REGENT'S PARK & BLOOMSBURY
THE CITY & SOUTHWARK
WEST END & WEST MINSTER
Thames

LOCATOR MAP
See Street Finder map 13


IRONMONGER LANE
KING ST
OLD JEWRY
PRINCES STREET
THREADNEEDLE ST
CORNHILL
LOMBARD ST
STREET
STREET
WALBROOK
ST SWITHIN S
KING WILLIAM ST
0 metres 100
0 yards 100

Bank of England Museum

The Royal Exchange was founded in 1565 by Sir Thomas Gresham as a centre for commerce. The current building dates from 1844.

Bank station

Lombard Street, named after bankers who came here from Lombardy in the 13th century, retains its traditional banking signs.

KEY

🟥 Suggested route

St Mary Abchurch owes its unusually spacious feel to Wren's large dome. The altar carving is by Grinling Gibbons.

★ St Stephen Walbrook
This fine Wren church contains a striking white stone altar by Henry Moore ❶

Skinners' Hall is an 18th-century Italianate building constructed for the ancient guild that controlled trade in fur and leather.

St Stephen Walbrook ❶

39 Walbrook EC4. **Map** 13 B2. ***Tel*** *020 7626 9000.* ⊖ *Bank, Cannon St.* ○ *10am–4pm Mon–Thu, 10am–3pm Fri.* ● *public hols.* ✝ *12:45am Thu.* **http://**ststephenwalbrook.net

The Lord Mayor's parish church was built by Sir Christopher Wren in the 1670s and is among the finest of all his City churches. The bright, airy interior is flooded with light by a huge dome that appears to float above the eight columns and arches that support it. The dome, deep and coffered with ornate plasterwork, was a forerunner of St Paul's. Original fittings, such as the highly decorative font cover and pulpit canopy, contrast with the stark simplicity of Henry Moore's massive white stone altar (1987). The best time to see the church is during one of its free organ recitals from 12.30 to 1.30pm on Fridays.

St Paul's ❷

See pp116–17.

Effigies in Temple Church

Temple ❸

Inner Temple, King's Bench Walk EC4. ***Tel*** *020 7797 8250.* **Map** 12 E2. ⊖ *Temple.* ○ *12:30–3pm Mon–Fri (grounds only).* ♿ **Middle Temple Hall**, *Middle Temple Ln EC4.* ***Tel*** *020 7427 4800.* ○ *10–11:30am, 3–4pm Mon–Fri.* ♿ **Temple Church.** ***Tel*** *020 7353 8559.* ○ *Wed–Fri; call for times and services.* ☞ *book ahead.*

A cluster of atmospheric squares form the Inner and Middle Temples, two of London's four Inns of Court, where law students are trained. The name Temple derives from the medieval Knights Templar, a religious order which protected pilgrims to the Holy Land and was based here until 1312. Marble effigies of knights lie on the floor of the circular Temple Church, part of which dates from the 12th century. Middle Temple Hall has a fine Elizabethan interior.

St Bartholomew-the-Great ❺

West Smithfield EC1. **Map** *12* F1. ***Tel*** *020 7606 5171.* ⊖ *Barbican, St Paul's.* ○ *8:30am–5pm (4pm in winter) Mon–Fri, 10:30am–4pm Sat, 8:30am–8pm Sun.* ● *1 Jan, 25, 26 Dec.* ⊘ ♿ ☞ *by appt.* **Concerts.** **www**.greatstbarts.com

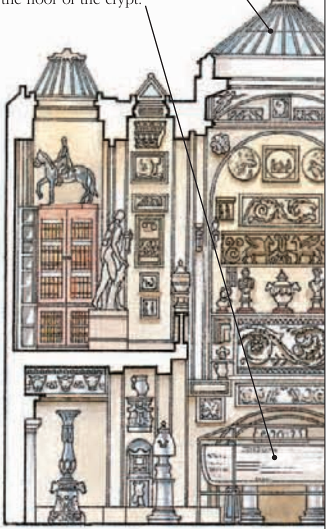
The historic area of Smithfield has witnessed a number of bloody events over the years, among them the execution of rebel peasant leader Wat Tyler in 1381, and, in the reign of Mary I (1553–58), the burning of scores of Protestant martyrs.

Sir John Soane's Museum ❹

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields WC2. **Map** 12 D1. ***Tel*** *020 7405 2107.* ⊖ *Holborn.* ○ *10am–5pm Tue–Sat, 6–9pm 1st Tue of month.* ● *public hols, 24 Dec.* ♿ *ground floor only.* ☞ *Sat 11am.* **www**.soane.org

One of the most eccentric museums in London, this house was left to the nation by Sir John Soane in 1837, with a stipulation that nothing should be changed. The son of a bricklayer, Soane became one of Britain's leading late Georgian architects developing a restrained Neo-Classical style of his own. After marrying the niece of a wealthy builder, whose fortune he inherited, he bought and reconstructed No. 12 Lincoln's Inn Fields. In 1813 he and his wife moved into No. 13 and in 1824 he rebuilt No. 14, adding a picture gallery and the mock medieval Monk's Parlour. Today, true to Soane's wishes, the collections are much as he left them – an eclectic gathering of beautiful, instructional and often simply peculiar artifacts. There are casts, bronzes, vases, antique fragments, paintings and a selection of bizarre trivia which ranges from a giant fungus from Sumatra to a scold-bridle, a device designed to silence nagging wives. Highlights include the sarcophagus of Seti I, Soanes's own designs, including those for the Bank of England, models by leading Neo-Classical sculptors and the *Rake's Progress* series of paintings (1734) by William Hogarth, which Mrs Soane bought for £520.

The building itself is full of architectural surprises and illusions. In the main ground floor room, cunningly placed mirrors play tricks with light and space, while an atrium stretching from the basement to the glass-domed roof allows light on to every floor.



A glass dome lets light on to all the floors.

A vast sarcophagus (1300 BC) stands on the floor of the crypt.

Hidden in a quiet corner behind Smithfield meat market (central London's only surviving wholesale food market), this is one of London's oldest churches. It once formed part of a priory founded in 1123 by a monk, Rahere, whose tomb is here. He was Henry I's court jester until he dreamed that St Bartholomew had saved him from a winged monster.

St Bartholomew's gatehouse

The 13th-century arch, now topped by a Tudor gatehouse, used to be the entrance to the church until the old nave was pulled down during the Dissolution of the Monasteries *(see pp50–51)*. The painter William Hogarth was baptized here in 1697. The church featured in the films *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Shakespeare in Love*.

Museum of London ❻

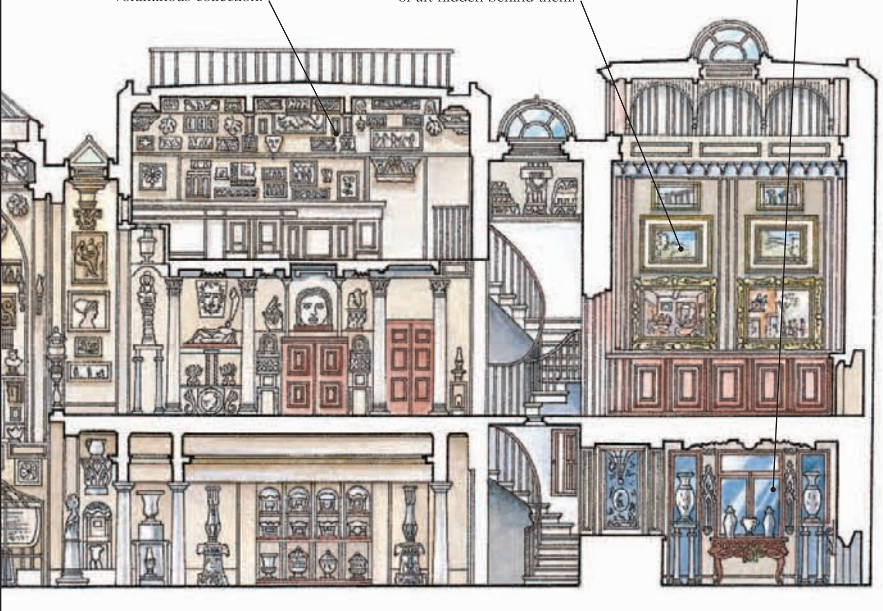
London Wall EC2. **Map** 13 A1.
Tel *020 7001 9844.* ⊖ *Barbican, St Paul's.* ○ *10am–6pm daily.*
● *24–26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.museumoflondon.org.uk

This museum traces life in London from prehistoric times to the outbreak of World War I. Displays of archaeological finds and domestic objects alternate with reconstructed street scenes and interiors.

Delft plate made in London 1600, Museum of London

There is also a working model of the Great Fire of 1666 in the London's Burning section. The Roman London gallery has a brightly coloured 2nd-century fresco from a Southwark bath house.

The museum spent over £20 million redeveloping its lower galleries into the Galleries of Modern London, which opened in 2010. These retell London's history from 1666 to the present day with over 4,000 objects and interactive exhibits. Visitors can also discover the city's many incarnations in the London before London, Roman London and Medieval London galleries.


Every wall is covered and every room filled with artifacts from Soane's voluminous collection.

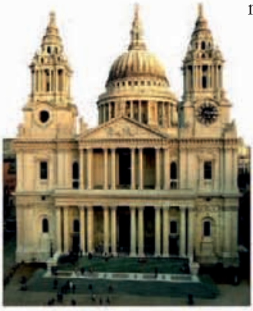
In the picture gallery, panels covered with paintings unfold to reveal more works of art hidden behind them.

The Monk's Parlour is full of grotesque Gothic casts.

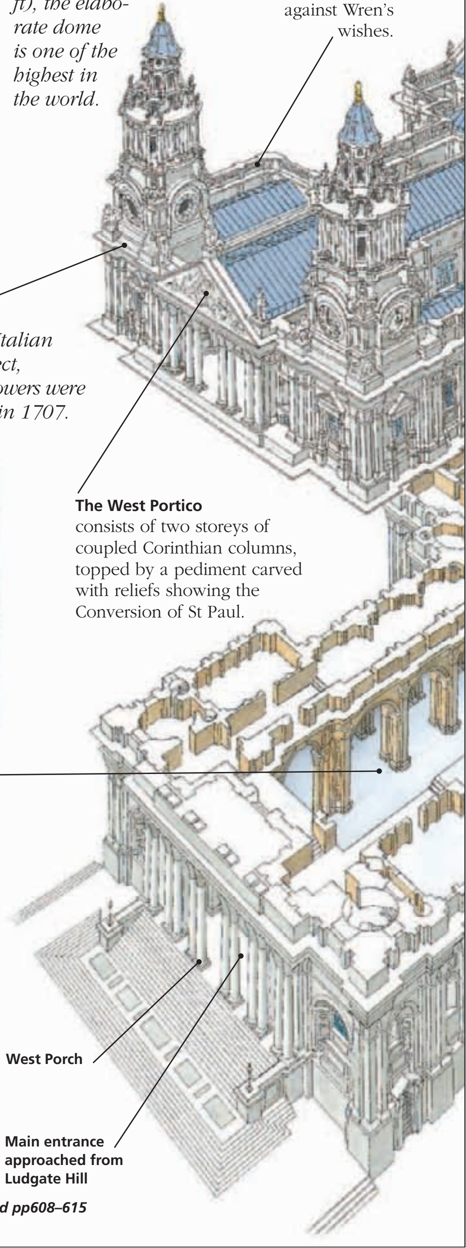
St Paul's Cathedral ②

The Great Fire of London in 1666 left the medieval cathedral of St Paul's in ruins. Wren was commissioned to rebuild it, but his design for a church on a Greek Cross plan (where all four arms are equal) met with considerable resistance. The authorities insisted on a conventional Latin cross, with a long nave and short transepts, which was believed to focus the congregation's attention on the altar. Despite the compromises, Wren created a magnificent Baroque cathedral, which was built between 1675 and 1710 and has since formed the lavish setting for many state ceremonies.

★ Dome
At 111 m (360 ft), the elaborate dome is one of the highest in the world.



★ West Front and Towers
Inspired by the Italian Baroque architect, Borromini, the towers were added by Wren in 1707.



The balustrade along the top was added in 1718 against Wren's wishes.

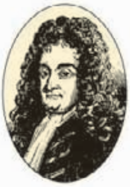
The West Portico consists of two storeys of coupled Corinthian columns, topped by a pediment carved with reliefs showing the Conversion of St Paul.

West Porch

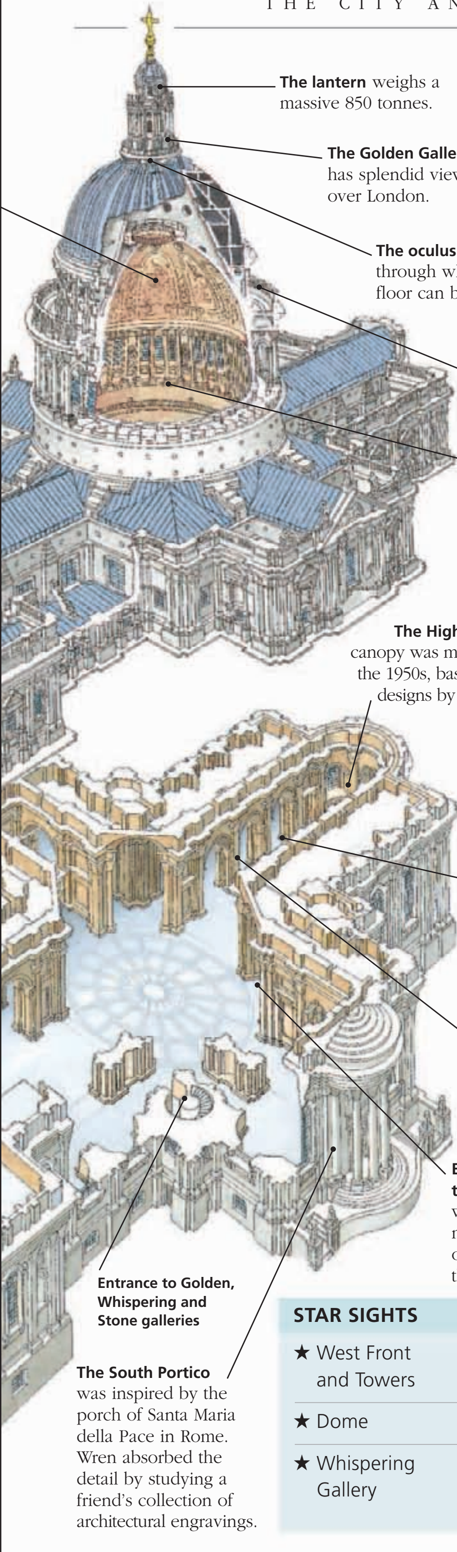
Main entrance approached from Ludgate Hill

The Nave
An imposing succession of massive arches and saucer domes open out into the vast space below the cathedral's main dome.

CHRISTOPHER WREN



Trained as a scientist, Sir Christopher Wren (1632–1723) began his impressive architectural career at the age of 31. He became a leading figure in the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire of 1666, building a total of 52 new churches. Although Wren never visited Italy, his work was influenced by Roman, Baroque and Renaissance architecture, as is apparent in his masterpiece, St Paul's Cathedral.



The lantern weighs a massive 850 tonnes.

The Golden Gallery has splendid views over London.

The oculus is an opening through which the cathedral floor can be seen.

Stone Gallery

The High Altar canopy was made in the 1950s, based on designs by Wren.

Entrance to crypt, which has many memorials to the famous.

Entrance to Golden, Whispering and Stone galleries

The South Portico was inspired by the porch of Santa Maria della Pace in Rome. Wren absorbed the detail by studying a friend's collection of architectural engravings.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Ludgate Hill EC4. **Map** 13 A2. ***Tel*** *020 7236 4128.* ⊖ *St Paul's, Mansion House.* 🚌 *4, 11, 15, 17, 23, 25, 76, 172.* ⇌ *City Thameslink.* **Cathedral** ○ *8:30am–4pm Mon–Sat.* **Galleries, Crypt, Ambulatory** ○ *8:30am–4pm Mon–Sat.* ● *for sightseeing Sun; check website for closures of all or part of the cathedral.* 🎧 *includes audio guide.* ✝ *11am Sun.* ♿ 👂 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.stpauls.co.uk

★ Whispering Gallery

The dome's unusual acoustics mean that words whispered against the wall can be heard clearly on the opposite side.

Choir

Jean Tijou, a Huguenot refugee, created much of the fine wrought ironwork in Wren's time, including these choir screens.

Choir Stalls

The 17th-century choir stalls and organ case were made by Grinling Gibbons (1648–1721), a woodcarver from Rotterdam. He and his team of craftsmen worked on these intricate carvings for two years.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ West Front and Towers
- ★ Dome
- ★ Whispering Gallery

Richard Rogers's Lloyd's building

Lloyd's Building ⑦

1 Lime St EC3. **Map** 13 C2. ***Tel*** *020 7327 6586.* ⊖ *Monument, Bank, Aldgate.* ☞ *tours@lloyds.com*

Lloyd's was founded in the late 17th century and soon became the world's main insurers, issuing policies on everything from oil tankers to Betty Grable's legs. The present building, designed by Richard Rogers, dates from 1986 and is one of the most interesting modern buildings in London. Its exaggerated stainless-steel external piping and high-tech ducts echo Rogers' forceful Pompidou Centre in Paris. Lloyd's is well worth seeing floodlit at night.

Monument ⑧

Monument St EC3. **Map** 13 C2. ***Tel*** *020 7626 2717.* ⊖ *Monument.* ○ *9:30am–5pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ☞ **www**.towerbridge.org.uk

This doric column, designed by Wren to commemorate the Great Fire of London that devastated the original walled city in September 1666, was, in 1681, the tallest isolated stone column in the world. Topped with a bronze flame, the Monument is 62 m (205 ft) high; the exact distance west to Pudding Lane, where the fire is believed to have started. Reliefs around the column's base show Charles II restoring the city after the tragedy.

The now restored column has 311 tightly spiralled steps that lead to a tiny viewing platform. (In 1842, it was enclosed with an iron cage to prevent suicides.) The steep climb is well worth the effort as the views from the top are spectacular and visitors are rewarded with a certificate.

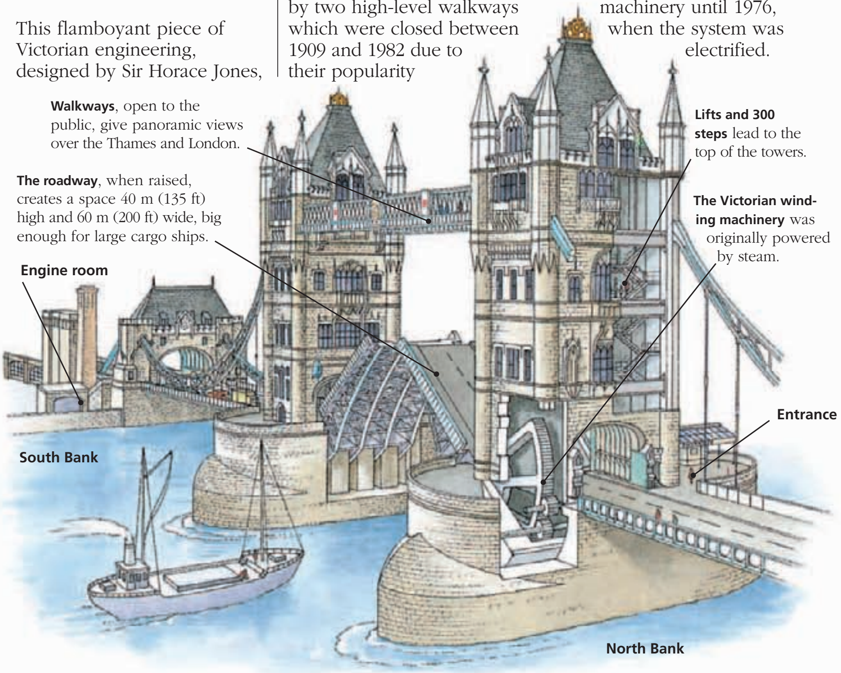
Tower of London ⑨

See pp118–19.

Tower Bridge ⑩

SE1. **Map** 14 D3. ***Tel*** *020 7403 3761.* ⊖ *Tower Hill.* **The Tower Bridge Exhibition** ○ *Apr–Sep: 10am–5:30pm daily; Oct–Mar: 9:30am–5pm daily (last adm: 4pm).* ● *24–26 Dec.* ☞ ♿ *access lift.* 🛍 **www**.towerbridge.org.uk

This flamboyant piece of Victorian engineering, designed by Sir Horace Jones, was completed in 1894 and soon became a symbol of London. Its two Gothic towers contain the mechanism for raising the roadway to permit large ships to pass through. The towers are made of a supporting steel framework clad in stone, and are linked by two high-level walkways which were closed between 1909 and 1982 due to their popularity with suicides and prostitutes. The bridge now houses The Tower Bridge Exhibition, with interactive displays bringing the bridge's history to life. There are fine river views from the walkways, and a look at the steam engine room that powered the lifting machinery until 1976, when the system was electrified.



Walkways, open to the public, give panoramic views over the Thames and London.

The roadway, when raised, creates a space 40 m (135 ft) high and 60 m (200 ft) wide, big enough for large cargo ships.

Lifts and 300 steps lead to the top of the towers.

The Victorian winding machinery was originally powered by steam.

Design Museum ⑪

Butlers Wharf, Shad Thames SE1. **Map** 14 E4. ***Tel*** *020 7940 8790.* ⊖ *Tower Hill, London Bridge.* ○ *10am–5:45pm daily (last adm: 5:15pm).* ● *25 & 26 Dec.* 📷 ♿ 🍴 **Blueprint Café** *020 7378 7031 for reservations.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.designmuseum.org

This museum was the first in the world to be devoted solely to modern and contemporary design when it was founded in 1989. A frequently changing programme of exhibitions explores landmarks in modern design history and the most exciting innovations in contemporary design set against the context of social, cultural, economic and technological changes. The Design Museum embraces every area of design, from furniture and fashion, to household products, cars, graphics, websites and architecture in exhibitions and new design commissions. Each spring the museum hosts Designer of the Year, a national design prize, with an exhibition at which the public can vote for the winner.

The museum is arranged over three floors, with major exhibitions on the first floor. There is a choice of smaller displays on the second, which also houses an Interaction Space, where visitors can play vintage video games and learn about the designers featured in the museum in the Design at the Design Museum online research archive. The shop and café are on the ground floor. On the first floor is the **Blueprint Café** restaurant, which has stunning views of the Thames (booking ahead recommended).

Exterior of the Design Museum

The now familiar sight of the naval gunship HMS Belfast on the Thames

HMS Belfast ⑫

Morgan's Lane, Tooley St SE1. **Map** 13 C3. ℹ *020 7940 6300.* ⊖ *London Bridge, Tower Hill.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 10am–6pm daily; Nov–Feb: 10am–5pm daily (last adm: 50 mins before closing).* ● *24–26 Dec.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.iwm.org.uk

Originally launched in 1938 to serve in World War II, the 11,500-ton battle ship HMS *Belfast* was instrumental in the destruction of the German battle cruiser *Scharnhorst* in the battle of North Cape, and also played an important role in the Normandy Landings.

After the war, the battle cruiser, designed for offensive action and for supporting amphibious operations, was sent to work for the United Nations in Korea. The ship remained in service with the British navy until 1965.

Since 1971, the cruiser has been used as a floating naval museum. Part of it has been atmospherically recreated to show what the ship was like in 1943, when it participated in sinking the German battle cruiser. Other displays portray life on board during World War II, and there are also general exhibits which relate to the history of the Royal Navy.

As well as being a great family day out, it is also possible for children to take part in the educational activity weekends that take place on board the ship.

London Dungeon ⑬

Tooley St SE1. **Map** 13 C3. ℹ *0871 360 2049.* ⊖ *London Bridge.* ○ *Jul–Aug 9:30am–6pm; Easter–Jun, Sep & Oct 10am–5:30pm; Nov–Easter 10:30am–5pm; daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 📷 *book in advance to avoid queues.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.thedungeons.com

In effect a much expanded version of the chamber of horrors at Madame Tussaud's *(see p104)*, this museum is a great hit with children. It illustrates the most bloodthirsty events in British history. It is played strictly for terror, and screams abound as Druids perform a human sacrifice at Stonehenge, Henry VIII's wife Anne Boleyn is beheaded, and a room full of people die in agony during the Great Plague. Other displays include torture, murder and witchcraft.

19th-century surgical tools

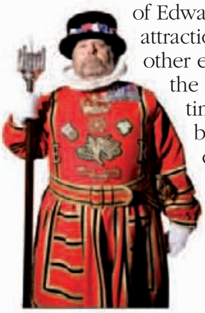
The Old Operating Theatre ⑭

9a St Thomas St SE1. **Map** 13 B4. ***Tel*** *020 7188 2679.* ⊖ *London Bridge.* ○ *10:30am–5pm daily.* ● *15 Dec–5 Jan.* 📷 🛍 **www**.thegarret.org.uk

St Thomas's Hospital stood here from its foundation in the 12th century until it was moved west in 1862. At this time most of its buildings were demolished to make way for the railway. The women's operating theatre (The Old Operating Theatre Museum and Herb Garret) survived only because it was located away from the main buildings, in a garret over the hospital church. It lay, bricked up and forgotten, until the 1950s. Britain's oldest operating theatre, dating back to 1822, it has now been fitted out as it would have been in the early 19th century.

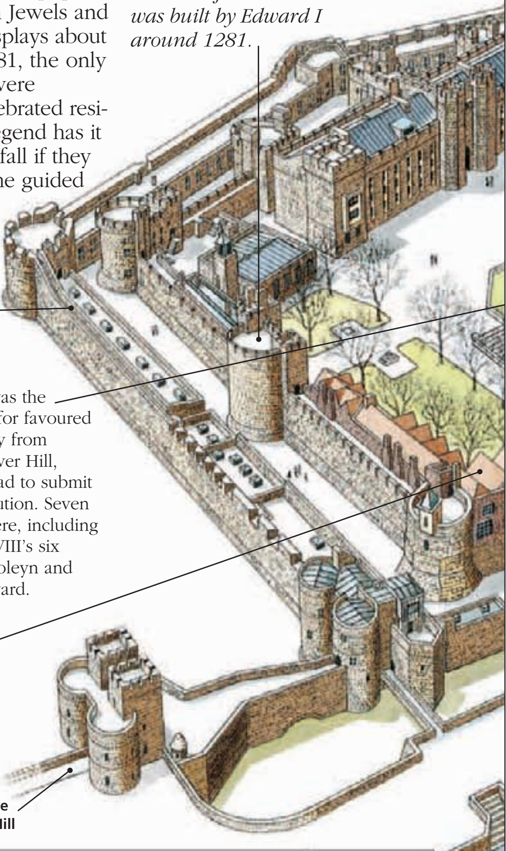
Tower of London ❾

Soon after William the Conqueror became king in 1066, he built a fortress here to guard the entrance to London from the Thames Estuary. In 1097 the White Tower was completed in sturdy stone; other fine buildings have been added over the centuries. The tower has served as a royal residence, armoury, treasury and, most famously, as a prison. Some were tortured here and among those who met their death were the "Princes in the Tower", the sons and heirs of Edward IV. Today the tower is a popular attraction, housing the Crown Jewels and other exhibits, such as the displays about the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, the only time the Tower's walls were breached. The most celebrated residents are the ravens; legend has it that the kingdom will fall if they desert the tower. Some guided tours are led by the colourful Beefeaters.



"Beefeaters"
Thirty-five Yeomen Warders guard the Tower and live here. Their uniforms hark back to Tudor times.

Beauchamp Tower
Many high-ranking prisoners were held here, often with their own retinues of servants. The tower was built by Edward I around 1281.



Two 13th-century curtain walls protect the tower.

Tower Green was the execution site for favoured prisoners, away from crowds on Tower Hill, where many had to submit to public execution. Seven people died here, including two of Henry VIII's six wives, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard.

Main entrance from Tower Hill

Queen's House
This Tudor building is the sovereign's official residence at the Tower.

THE CROWN JEWELS

The world's best-known collection of precious objects, now displayed in a splendid exhibition room, includes the gorgeous regalia of crowns, sceptres, orbs and swords used at coronations and other state occasions. Most date from 1661, when Charles II commissioned replacements for regalia destroyed by Parliament after the execution of Charles I *(see pp52–3)*. Only a few older pieces survived, hidden by royalist clergymen until the Restoration – notably, Edward the Confessor's sapphire ring, now incorporated into the Imperial State Crown *(see p73)*. The crown was made for Queen Victoria in 1837 and has been used at every coronation since.

The Sovereign's Ring (1831)

The Sovereign's Orb (1661), a hollow gold sphere encrusted with jewels

★ Jewel House

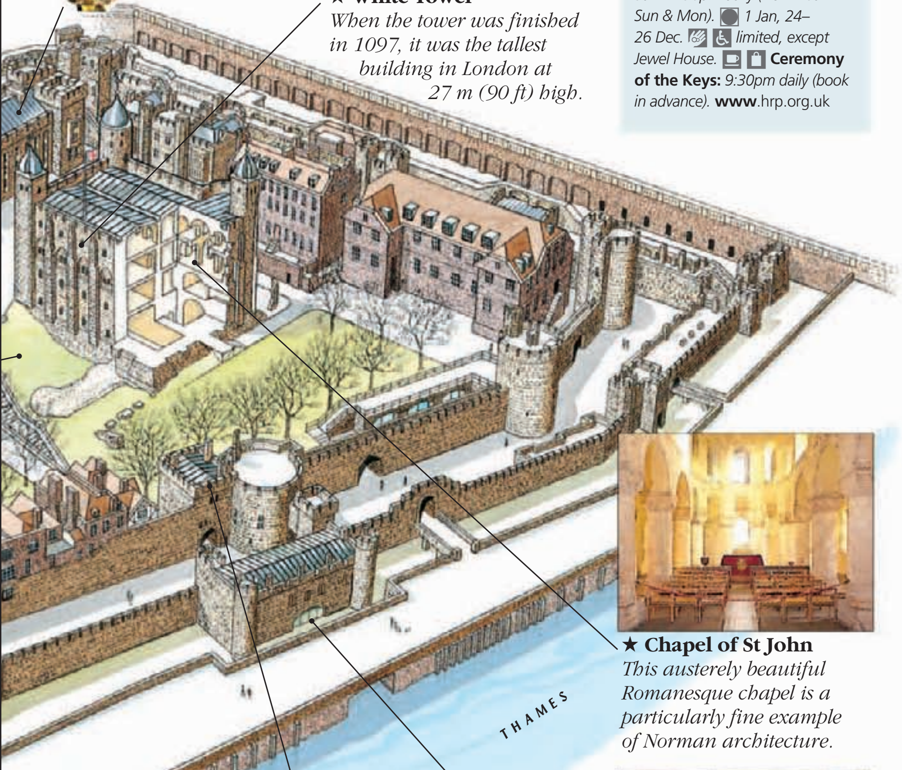
Among the magnificent Crown Jewels is the Sceptre with the Cross (1660), which now contains the world's biggest diamond.

★ White Tower

When the tower was finished in 1097, it was the tallest building in London at 27 m (90 ft) high.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Tower Hill EC3. **Map** 14 D3. ***Tel*** *0844 482 7799 for advance booking.* ⊖ *Tower Hill; Tower Gateway (DLR).* 🚌 *RV1, 15, X15, 25, 42, 78, 100, D1, D9, D11.* ⇌ *Fenchurch Street.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 9am–5:30pm daily (from 10am Sun & Mon); Nov–Feb: 9am–4:30pm daily (from 10am Sun & Mon).* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 📷 ♿ *limited, except Jewel House.* ☕ 🛍 **Ceremony of the Keys:** *9:30pm daily (book in advance).* **www**.hrp.org.uk

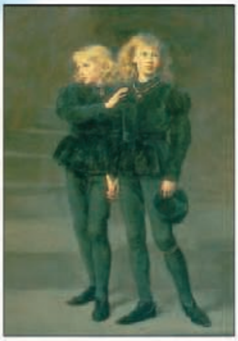


★ Chapel of St John

This austerely beautiful Romanesque chapel is a particularly fine example of Norman architecture.

Traitors' Gate

The infamous entrance was used for prisoners brought from trial in Westminster Hall.



Bloody Tower

A permanent display explores the mysterious disappearance of Edward IV's two sons, who were put here by their uncle, Richard of Gloucester (later Richard III), after their father died in 1483. The princes disappeared, and Richard was crowned later that year. In 1674 the skeletons of two children were found nearby.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Jewel House
- ★ White Tower
- ★ Chapel of St John

The George Inn, now owned by the National Trust

George Inn ⑮

(NT) 77 Borough High St SE1. **Map** 13 B4. ***Tel*** *020 7407 2056.* ⊖ *London Bridge, Borough.* ○ *11am–11pm Mon–Sat, noon–10:30pm Sun.* 🍴

Dating from the 17th century, this building is the only traditional galleried coaching inn left in London and is mentioned in Dickens's *Little Dorrit*. It was rebuilt after the Southwark fire of 1676 in a style that dates back to the Middle Ages. There were originally three wings around a courtyard, where plays were staged in the 17th century. In 1889 the north and east wings were demolished, so there is only one wing remaining.

The inn is still a popular pub with a well-worn, comfortable atmosphere, perfect on a cold, damp day. In the summer, the yard fills with picnic tables, and patrons are occasionally entertained by actors and morris dancers. The house bitter is highly recommended.

Borough Market ⑯

8 Southwark St SE1. **Map** 13 B4. ⊖ *London Bridge.* **Retail market** ○ *11am–5pm Thu, noon–6pm Fri, 9am–4pm Sat.*

Borough Market was until recently a wholesale fruit and vegetable market, which had its origins in medieval times, and moved to its current position beneath the railway tracks in 1756. This hugely popular fine-food market has now become well established, selling gourmet foods from Britain and abroad, as well as quality fruit and vegetables, to locals and tourists alike.

Shakespeare window (1954), Southwark Cathedral

Southwark Cathedral ⑰

Montague Close SE1. **Map** 13 B3. ***Tel*** *020 7367 6700.* ⊖ *London Bridge.* ○ *8am–6pm daily.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.southwark.anglican.org/cathedral

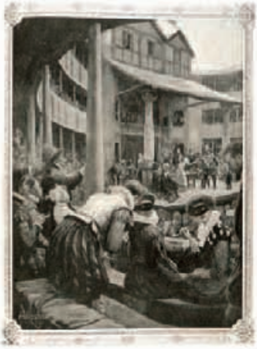
Although some parts of this building date back to the 12th century, it was not until 1905 that it became a cathedral. Many original medieval features remain, notably the tomb of the poet John Gower (c.1325–1408), a contemporary of Chaucer *(see p172)*. There is a monument to Shakespeare, carved in 1912, and a memorial window *(above)* installed in 1954.

Shakespeare's Globe ⑱

New Globe Walk SE1. **Map** 13 A3. ***Tel*** *020 7902 1400. Box office: 020 7401 9919.* ⊖ *Southwark, London Bridge.* **Exhibition** ○ *Late Apr–early Oct: 9am–12:30pm, 1–5pm Mon–Sat, 9–11:30am & noon–5pm Sun; early Oct–late Apr: 10am–5pm daily.* ● *24, 25 Dec.* 💷 ♿ ☞ *every 30 mins. (Rose Theatre tours for groups of 15 or more by appt only).* **Performances** *late Apr–early Oct.* ♿ *limited.* 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.shakespeares-globe.org

Opened in 1997, this circular building is a faithful reproduction of an Elizabethan theatre, close to the site of the original Globe where many of Shakespeare's plays were first performed. It was built using handmade bricks and oak laths, fastened with wooden pegs rather than metal screws, and has the first thatched roof allowed in London since the Great Fire of 1666. The theatre was erected thanks to a heroic campaign by the American actor and director Sam Wanamaker. Open to the elements (although the seats are protected), it operates only in the summer, and seeing a play here can be a thrilling experience, with top-quality acting under the artistic direction of Mark Rylance among others.

Beneath the theatre, Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition is open all year and covers many aspects of Shakespeare's work and times. Groups of 15 or more may book to see the foundations of the nearby Rose Theatre.

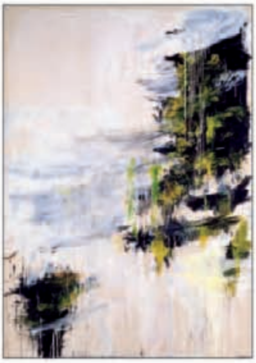


Shakespeare's *Henry IV* (performed at the Globe Theatre around 1600)

Tate Modern ⑲

Holland St, SE1. **Map** 13 A3. ***Tel*** *020 7887 8888.* ⊖ *St Paul's, Southwark.* ⛴ *to Tate Britain every 40 mins.* 🎫 ○ *10am–6pm Sun–Thu, 10am–10pm Fri & Sat.* ● *24–26 Dec.* 🎫 *major exhibitions.* ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.tate.org.uk/modern

Looming over the southern bank of the Thames, Tate Modern occupies the converted Bankside power station, a dynamic space for one of the world's premier collections of contemporary art. Tate Modern draws its main displays from the expansive Tate Collection, also shown at the other Tate galleries: Tate St Ives *(p277),* Tate Liverpool *(p377)* and Tate Britain *(p91)*. A river boat, *Tate to Tate,* transports visitors between Tate Modern and Tate Britain. Tate Modern completed a major re-hang of its collection in 2006, and displays on level 5 also underwent changes in 2009.

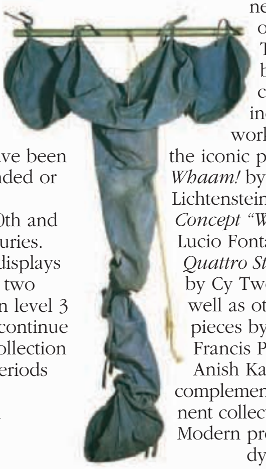


Inverno **from *Quattro Stagioni* (1993–4) by Cy Twombly**

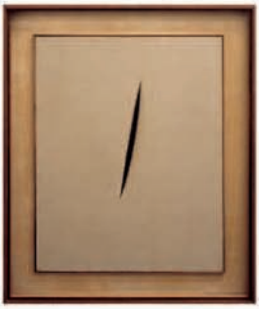
The gallery's west entrance leads straight into the massive Turbine Hall. Each year an artist is commissioned to install in this space. Louise Bourgeois was the first to do so, creating three giant towers and a gargantuan spider, *Maman* (2000). In 2008, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster's *TH 2058* filled the Turbine Hall with 200 yellow and blue bunk beds.

An escalator whisks visitors from the Turbine Hall, up to level 3 where the main galleries are located. In a break with convention, Tate Modern organizes its displays by theme rather than chronology or school – a practice that cuts across movements and mixes up media. Four themes based on traditional genres reveal how traditions have been confronted, extended or rejected by artists throughout the 20th and into the 21st centuries.

Tate Modern's displays are arranged into two thematic wings on level 3 and the displays continue on level 5. The collection focuses on key periods of modern art: Cubism, Futurism and Vorticism; Surrealism and Surrealist tendencies; Abstract Expressionism and European Informal Art; and Minimalism. At the centre of each of the four exhibitions is a focal display, from which all the other displays rotate.



Soft Drainpipe – Blue (Cool) **(1967) by Claes Oldenburg**



Spatial Concept "Waiting" **(1960) by Lucio Fontana**

Over 40 per cent of the work on display since the major re-hang in 2006 has never been on display at Tate Modern before. The collection includes works such as the iconic paintings *Whaam!* by Roy Lichtenstein, *Spatial Concept "Waiting"* by Lucio Fontana and *Quattro Stagioni* by Cy Twombly as well as other important pieces by the likes of Francis Picabia and Anish Kapoor. To complement its permanent collection, Tate Modern presents a dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions, including three large-scale shows per year. Major live events are staged each year, taking their inspiration from the Collection.

BANKSIDE POWER STATION

This forbidding fortress was designed in 1947 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the architect of Battersea Power Station, Waterloo Bridge and London's famous red telephone boxes. The power station is of a steel-framed brick skin construction, comprising over 4.2 million bricks. The Turbine Hall was designed to accommodate huge oil-burning generators and three vast oil tanks are still in situ, buried under the ground just south of the building. The tanks are to be employed in a future stage of Tate Modern development. The power station itself was converted by Swiss architects Herzog and de Meuron who designed the two-storey glass box, or lightbeam, which runs the length of the building. This serves to flood the upper galleries with light and also provides wonderful views of London.

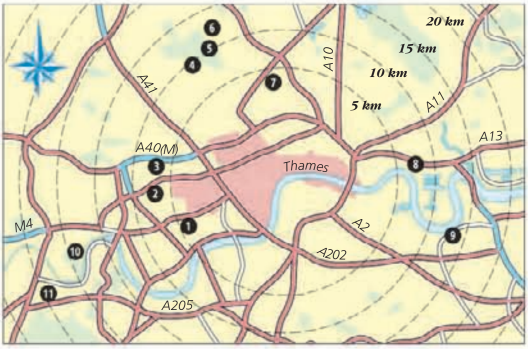
The façade, chimney and light beam of Tate Modern

FURTHER AFIELD

Over the centuries London has steadily expanded to embrace the scores of villages that surrounded it, leaving the City as a reminder of London's original boundaries. Although now linked in an almost unbroken urban sprawl, many of these areas have maintained their old village atmosphere and character. Hampstead and Highgate are still distinct enclaves, as are artistic Chelsea and literary Islington. Greenwich, Chiswick and Richmond have retained features that hark back to the days when the Thames was an important artery for transport and commerce, while just to the east of the City the wide expanses of the former docks have, in the last 20 years, been imaginatively rebuilt as new commercial and residential areas.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Camden and Islington ⑦
Chelsea ①
Chiswick ⑩
East End and Docklands ⑧
Greenwich ⑨
Hampstead ④
Hampstead Heath ⑤
Highgate ⑥
Holland Park ②
Notting Hill and Portobello Road ③
Richmond and Kew ⑪



KEY

🟥 Main sightseeing areas

🟨 Greater London

🟩 Parks

— Motorway

— Major road

— Minor road

10 miles = 15 km

Chelsea ①

SW3. ⊖ *Sloane Square.* **Map** 17 B2.

Riverside Chelsea has been fashionable since Tudor times when Sir Thomas More, Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor *(see p50)*, lived here. The river views attracted artists and the arrival of the historian Thomas Carlyle and essayist Leigh Hunt in the 1830s began a literary connection. Blue plaques on the houses of **Cheyne Walk** celebrate former residents such as J M W Turner *(see p91)* and writers George Eliot, Henry James and T S Eliot.

Statue of Sir Thomas More (1478–1535), Cheyne Walk

Chelsea's artistic tradition is maintained by its galleries and antique shops, many of them scattered among the clothes boutiques on **King's Road**. This begins at **Sloane Square**, named after the physician Sir Hans Sloane, who bought the manor of Chelsea in 1712. Sloane expanded the **Chelsea Physic Garden** (1673) along Swan Walk to cultivate plants and herbs.

Wren's **Royal Hospital**, on Royal Hospital Road was built in 1692 as a retirement home for old soldiers and still houses 400 Chelsea Pensioners.

Arab Hall, Leighton House (1866)

Holland Park ②

W8, W14. ⊖ *Holland Park.* **Map** 7 B5.

This park is more intimate than the large royal parks such as Hyde Park *(see p101)*. It was opened in 1952 on the grounds of **Holland House**, a centre of social and political intrigue in its 19th-century heyday.

Around the park are some magnificent late Victorian houses. **Linley Sambourne**

House was built about 1870 and has received a much-needed facelift, though it remains much as Sambourne furnished it, in the Victorian manner, with china ornaments and heavy velvet drapes. He was a political cartoonist for the satirical magazine *Punch* and drawings cram the walls.

Leighton House, built for the Neo-Classical painter Lord Leighton in 1866, has been preserved as an extraordinary monument to the Victorian Aesthetic movement. The highlight is the Arab Hall, which was added in 1879 to house Leighton's stupendous collection of 13th- to 17th-century Islamic tiles. The best paintings include some by Leighton himself and by his contemporaries Edward Burne-Jones and John Millais.

🏠 **Linley Sambourne House**
18 Stafford Terrace W8. ***Tel*** *020 7602 3316 (020 7938 1295 Sat, Sun).* ⊖ *High St Ken.* ○ *Mar–Dec: tours only, Mon–Fri by appt, Sat & Sun every hr till 3:30pm.* ✋ ☞ 🛍

🏠 **Leighton House**
12 Holland Park Rd W14. ***Tel*** *020 7602 3316.* ⊖ *High St Ken.* ○ *11am–5:30pm Wed–Mon.* ● *public hols.* ✋ ☞ *Wed & Thu.* 🛍

Notting Hill and Portobello Road ❸

W11. ⊖ *Notting Hill Gate.* **Map** 7 B2.

In the 1950s and 60s, Notting Hill became a centre for the Caribbean community and today it is a vibrant cosmopolitan part of London. It is also home to Europe's largest street carnival *(see p63)* which began in 1965 and takes over the entire area on the August bank holiday weekend, when costumed parades flood through the crowded streets.

Nearby, Portobello Road market *(see pp148–9)* has a bustling atmosphere with hundreds of stalls and shops selling a variety of collectables.

Hampstead ❹

NW3, N6. ⊖ *Hampstead.*
⇌ *Hampstead Heath.*

Georgian house, Hampstead

On a high ridge north of the metropolis, Hampstead is essentially a Georgian village with many perfectly maintained mansions and houses. It is one of London's most desirable residential areas, home to a community of artists and writers since Georgian times.

Situated in a quiet Hampstead street, **Keats House** (1816) is an evocative tribute to the life and work of the poet John Keats (1795–1821). Keats lived here for two years before his tragic death from consumption at the age of 25, and it was under a plum tree in the garden that he wrote his celebrated *Ode to a Nightingale.* Mementoes of Keats and of Fanny Brawne, the neighbour to whom he was engaged, are on show. Renovated in 2009, Keats House now benefits from more extensive displays.

The **Freud Museum**, which opened in 1986, is dedicated to the dramatic life of Sigmund Freud (1856–1939), the founder of psychoanalysis. At the age of 82, Freud fled from Nazi persecution in Vienna to this Hampstead house where he lived and worked for the last year of his life. His daughter Anna, pioneer of child psychoanalysis, continued to live here until her death in 1982. Inside, Freud's rich Viennese-style consulting rooms remain unaltered, and 1930s home movies show moments of Freud's life, including scenes of the Nazi attack on his home in Vienna.

🏛 **Keats House**
Keats Grove NW3. ☎ *020 7332 3868.* ⊖ *Hampstead, Belsize Pk.* ○ *1–5pm Tue–Sun (am by appt).* 🛍 **www**.cityoflondon.gov.uk/keats

🏛 **Freud Museum**
20 Maresfield Gdns NW3.
Tel *020 7435 2002.* ⊖ *Finchley Rd.* ○ *noon–5pm Wed–Sun.* ✋ ♿ *limited.* 🛍 **www**.freud.org.uk

Est 1887
ALICE'S
ALIC
MASTER
BOOT POLISH

Antique shop on Portobello Road

View east across Hampstead Heath to Highgate

Hampstead Heath ❺

N6. ⊖ *Hampstead, Highgate.* ⇌ *Hampstead Heath.*

Separating the hill-top villages of Hampstead and Highgate, the open spaces of Hampstead Heath are a precious retreat from the city. There are meadows, lakes and ponds for bathing and fishing, and fine views over the capital from **Parliament Hill**, to the east.

Situated in landscaped grounds high on the edge of the Heath is the magnificent **Kenwood House**, where classical concerts *(see p154)* are held by the lake in summer. The house was remodelled by Robert Adam *(see p28)* in 1764 and most of his interiors have survived, the highlight of which is the library. The mansion is filled with Old Master paintings, such as works by Van Dyck, Vermeer, Turner *(see p91)* and Romney; the star attraction is Rembrandt's self-portrait of 1663.

Kenwood House
Hampstead Lane NW3. ***Tel*** *020 8348 1286.* ○ *11:30am–4pm daily.* ♿
☕ 🛍 **www**.english-heritage.org.uk

Handmade crafts and antiques, Camden Lock indoor market

Highgate ❻

N6. ⊖ *Highgate, Archway.*

A settlement since the Middle Ages, Highgate, like Hampstead, became a fashionable aristocratic retreat in the 16th century. Today, it still has an exclusive rural feel, aloof from the urban sprawl below, with a Georgian high street and many expensive houses.

Highgate Cemetery *(see p75),* with its monuments and hidden overgrown corners, has an extraordinary, magical atmosphere. Tour guides (daily in summer, weekends in winter) tell of the many tales of intrigue, mystery and vandalism connected with the cemetery since it opened in 1839. In the eastern section is the tomb of Victorian novelist George Eliot (1819–80) and of the cemetery's most famous incumbent, Karl Marx (1818–83).

Highgate Cemetery
Swains Lane N6. ***Tel*** *020 8340 1834.*
⊖ *Archway, Highgate.* ○ *daily.*
● *during burials, 25–26 Dec.* £ ✋
www.highgate-cemetery.org

Camden and Islington ❼

NW1, N1. **Camden** ⊖ *Camden Town, Chalk Farm.* **Islington** ⊖ *Angel, Highbury & Islington.*

Camden is a lively area packed with restaurants, shops and a busy **market** *(see p148–9).* Thousands of people come here each weekend to browse among the wide variety of stalls or simply to soak up the atmosphere of the lively cobbled area around the canal, which is enhanced by the buskers and street performers.

Neighbouring Islington was once a fashionable spa but the rich moved out in the late 18th century and the area deteriorated rapidly. In the 20th century, writers such as Evelyn Waugh, George Orwell and Joe Orton lived here. In recent decades, Islington has been rediscovered and is again fashionable as one of the first areas in London to become "gentrified", with many professionals buying the old houses.

East End and Docklands ❽

E1, E2, E14. **East End** ⊖ *Aldgate East, Liverpool St, Bethnal Green.* **Docklands** ⊖ *Canary Wharf.*

In the Middle Ages the East End was full of craftsmen practising noxious trades such as brewing, bleaching and vinegar-making, which were banned within the City. The area has also been home to numerous immigrant communities since the 17th century, when French Huguenots, escaping religious persecution moved into Spitalfields and made it a silk-weaving centre. Textiles continued to dominate in the 1880s, when Jewish tailors and furriers set up workshops here, and in the 1950s, when Bengali machinists worked in cramped conditions.

A good way to get a taste of the East End is to explore its Sunday street markets *(see p149)* and sample freshly baked bagels and spicy Indian food. By way of contrast, anyone interested in contemporary architecture should visit the **Docklands**, an ambitious redevelopment of disused docks, dominated by the Canada Tower. Other attractions include the **V&A Museum of Childhood**, a delightful toy museum with lots of activities, **Dennis Severs' House**, in which you are taken on a historic journey from the 17th to the 19th centuries, and the **Museum of London, Docklands** that explores the history of London's river and port. See p113 for the Museum of London's website.

Canada Tower, Canary Wharf

Royal Naval College framing the Queen's House, Greenwich

🏛 V&A Museum of Childhood

Cambridge Heath Rd E2. ***Tel*** *020 8983 5200.* ○ *10am–5:45pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.museumofchildhood.org.uk

🏠 Dennis Severs' House

18 Folgate St E1. ***Tel*** *020 7247 4013.* ○ *noon–2pm Mon after 1st & 3rd Sun of month, Mon eve (by candle-light), noon–4pm Sun.* ☞
www.dennisseversshouse.co.uk

Greenwich ❾

SE10. ⇌ *Greenwich, Maze Hill.* ⊖ *Cutty Sark (DLR).*

The world's time has been measured from the **Royal Observatory Greenwich** (now housing a museum) since 1884. The area is full of maritime and royal history, with Neo-Classical mansions, a park, many antique and book shops and various markets *(see pp148–9).*

The **Queen's House**, designed by Inigo Jones for James I's wife, was completed in 1637 for Henrietta Maria, the queen of Charles I. The Queen's House has now been restored to its original state, and its highlights include the perfectly cubic main hall and the unusual spiral "tulip staircase".

The adjoining **National Maritime Museum** has exhibits that range from primitive canoes, through Elizabethan galleons, to modern ships. Anyone interested in naval history should visit the **Old Royal Naval College**, which was designed by Christopher Wren *(see p114)* in two halves so that the Queen's House kept its river view. It began as a royal palace, became a hospital in 1692, and in 1873 the Old Royal Naval College moved here. The Rococo chapel and the 18th-century *trompe l'oeil* Painted Hall are open to the public.

An 18th-century compass, National Maritime Museum

🏛 Royal Observatory Greenwich

Greenwich Park SE10. ***Tel*** *020 8312 6565.* ○ *10am–5pm daily (last Planetarium show: 4pm).* ● *24–26 Dec.* 🛍 **www**.rog.nmm.ac.uk

🏛 Queen's House and National Maritime Museum

Romney Rd SE10. ***Tel*** *020 8312 6565.* ○ *daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.* ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.nmm.ac.uk

🏠 Old Royal Naval College

King William Walk, Greenwich SE10. ***Tel*** *020 8269 4747.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *public hols.*

Chiswick ⑩

W4. ⊖ *Chiswick.*

Chiswick is a pleasant suburb of London, with pubs, cottages and a variety of birdlife, such as herons, along the picturesque riverside. One of the main reasons for a visit is **Chiswick House**, a magnificent country villa inspired by the Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. It was designed in the early 18th century by the 3rd Earl of Burlington as an annexe to his larger house (demolished in 1758), so that he could display his art collection and entertain friends. The gardens are now fully restored.

Heron

🏛 Chiswick House
Burlington Lane W4. ***Tel*** *020 8995 0508.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Sun–Wed & bank hols.* **Garden** ○ *dawn–dusk daily.* 🗣 ♿ *call ahead.* 🛍

Richmond and Kew ⑪

SW15. ⊖ ⇌ *Richmond.*

The attractive village of Richmond took its name from a palace built by Henry VII (the former Earl of Richmond in Yorkshire) in 1500, the remains of which can be seen off the green. Nearby is the expansive **Richmond Park**, which was once Charles I's royal hunting ground. In summer, boats sail down the Thames from Westminster Millennium Pier, making a pleasant day's excursion from central London.

The nobility continued to favour Richmond after royalty had left, and some of their mansions have survived. The Palladian villa, **Marble Hill House**, was built in 1724–9 for the mistress of George II and has been restored to its original appearance. On the opposite side of the Thames, the brooding **Ham House**, built in 1610, had its heyday later that century when it became the home of the Duke and Duchess of Lauderdale. Elizabeth Countess of Dysart inherited the house from her father, who had been Charles I's "whipping boy" – meaning that he was punished whenever the future king misbehaved. He was rewarded as an adult by being given a peerage and the lease of Ham estate.

A little further north along the Thames, **Syon House** has been inhabited by the Dukes and Earls of Northumberland for over 400 years. Numerous attractions here include a butterfly house, a museum of historic cars and a spectacular conservatory built in 1830. The lavish Neo-Classical interiors of the house, created by Robert Adam in the 1760s *(see p28),* remain the highlight.

MAGNUMS
WINE
BAR
AND RESTAURANT
Brewers Lane, Richmond

On the riverbank to the south, **Kew Gardens**, the world's most complete botanic gardens, feature examples of nearly every plant that can be grown in Britain. There are also conservatories displaying thousands of exotic tropical blooms.

🏛 Marble Hill House
(EH) Richmond Rd, Twickenham. ***Tel*** *020 8892 5115.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Sat, Sun, pub hols.* ♿ *limited.* 🍴 ☕ 🛍

🏛 Ham House
(NT) Ham St, Richmond. ***Tel*** *020 8940 1950.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Sat–Wed.* 🗣 ♿

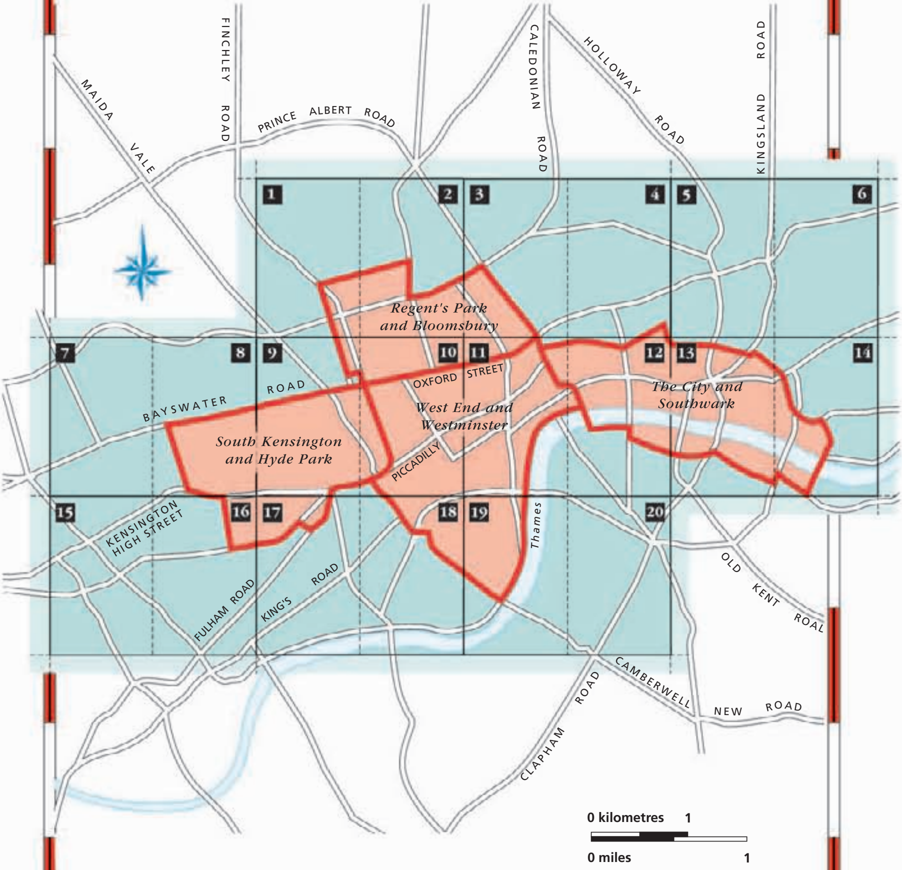
🏛 Syon House
London Rd, Brentford. ***Tel*** *020 8560 0881.* **House** ○ *mid-Mar–Oct: Wed, Thu, Sun & pub hols.* **Gardens** ○ *daily.* ● *Nov–mid-Mar.* 🗣 🎧 ♿ *gardens only.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.syonpark.co.uk

🍁 Kew Gardens
Royal Botanic Gdns, Kew Green, Richmond. ***Tel*** *020 8332 5655.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–25 Dec.* 🗣 ♿ 🎧 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.kew.org

Chiswick House

LONDON STREET FINDER

The map references given with the sights, hotels, restaurants, shops and entertainment venues based in central London refer to the following four maps. All the main places of interest within the central area are marked on the maps in addition to useful practical information, such as tube, railway and coach stations. The key map below shows the area of London that is covered by the Street Finder. The four main city-centre areas (colour-coded in pink) are shown in more detail on the inside back cover.


FINCHLEY ROAD
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PRINCE ALBERT ROAD
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KINGSLAND ROAD
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Regent's Park and Bloomsbury
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BAYSWATER ROAD
OXFORD STREET
The City and Southwark
West End and Westminster
South Kensington and Hyde Park
PICCADILLY
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KENSINGTON HIGH STREET
Thames
OLD KENT ROAD
FULHAM ROAD
KING'S ROAD
CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD
CLAPHAM ROAD
0 kilometres 1
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KEY

- ▨ Major sight
- ▨ Other sight
- ▨ Other building
- ▨ Underground station
- ▨ British rail
- ▨ Bus stop
- ▨ River boat boarding point
- ▨ Tourist information
- ▨ Hospital with casualty unit
- ▨ Police station
- ▨ Church
- ▨ Synagogue
- ☒ Post office
- ═ Railway line
- ═ Motorway
- ▨ Pedestrian street
- 56 House number (main street)

SCALE OF MAP PAGES

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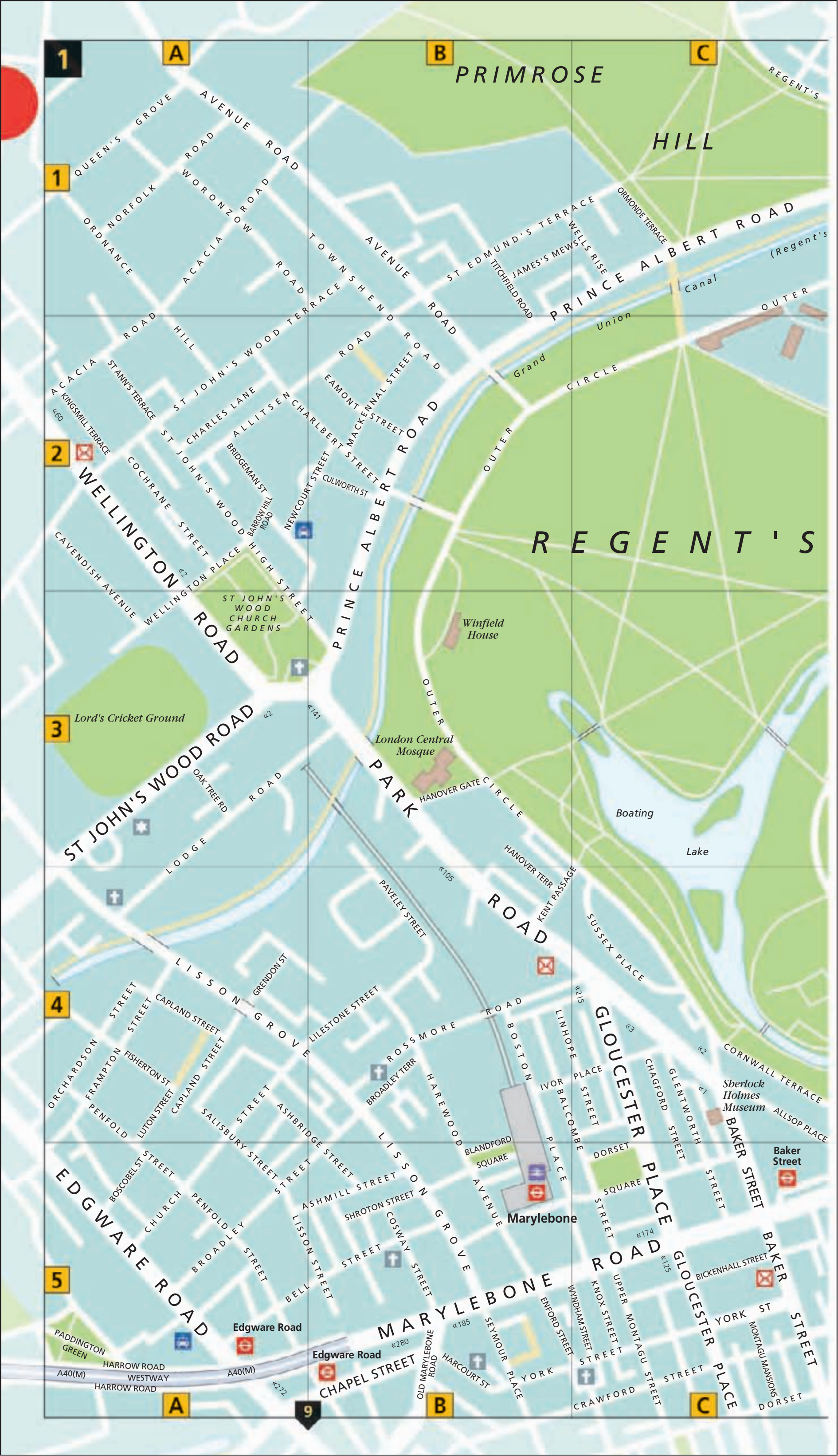
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Grand Union Canal
OUTER CIRCLE
ORMONDE TERRACE
WELLS RISE
JAMES'S MEWS
ST EDMUND'S TERRACE
TITCHFIELD ROAD
AVENUE ROAD
TOWNSHEND ROAD
QUEEN'S GROVE
NORFOLK ROAD
ORDNANCE HILL
WORONZOW ROAD
ACACIA ROAD
ST JOHN'S WOOD TERRACE
ST ANN'S TERRACE
KINGSMILL TERRACE
CHARLES LANE
ALLITSEN ROAD
EAMONT STREET
MACKENNAL STREET
CHARLBERT STREET
CULWORTH ST
NEWCOURT STREET
BRIDGEMAN ST
BARROW HILL ROAD
ST JOHN'S WOOD HIGH STREET
COCHRANE STREET
WELLINGTON ROAD
WELLINGTON PLACE
CAVENDISH AVENUE
ST JOHN'S WOOD CHURCH GARDENS
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Winfield House
Lord's Cricket Ground
ST JOHN'S WOOD ROAD
OAK TREE RD
LODGE ROAD
«141
London Central Mosque
HANOVER GATE
PARK ROAD
«105
HANOVER TERR
KENT PASSAGE
SUSSEX PLACE
Boating Lake
PAVELEY STREET
LISSON GROVE
GRENDON ST
LILESTONE STREET
ROSSMORE ROAD
BROADLEY TERR
HAREWOOD AVENUE
BOSTON PLACE
LINHOPE STREET
IVOR PLACE
BALCOMBE STREET
«215
«3
GLOUCESTER PLACE
CHAGFORD STREET
GLENTWORTH STREET
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CORNWALL TERRACE
ALLSOP PLACE
Sherlock Holmes Museum
BAKER STREET
Baker Street
ORCHARDSON STREET
FRAMPTON STREET
CAPLAND STREET
FISHERTON ST
LUTON STREET
PENFOLD STREET
SALISBURY STREET
ASHBRIDGE STREET
BLANDFORD SQUARE
DORSET SQUARE
Marylebone
EDGWARE ROAD
BOSCOBEL ST
CHURCH STREET
BROADLEY STREET
ASHMILL STREET
SHROTON STREET
COSWAY STREET
LISSON STREET
BELL STREET
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MARYLEBONE ROAD
BICKENHALL STREET
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KNOX STREET
WYNDHAM STREET
ENFORD STREET
SEYMOUR PLACE
«185
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OLD MARYLEBONE ROAD
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YORK STREET
CRAWFORD STREET
Edgware Road
Edgware Road
CHAPEL STREET
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PADDINGTON GREEN
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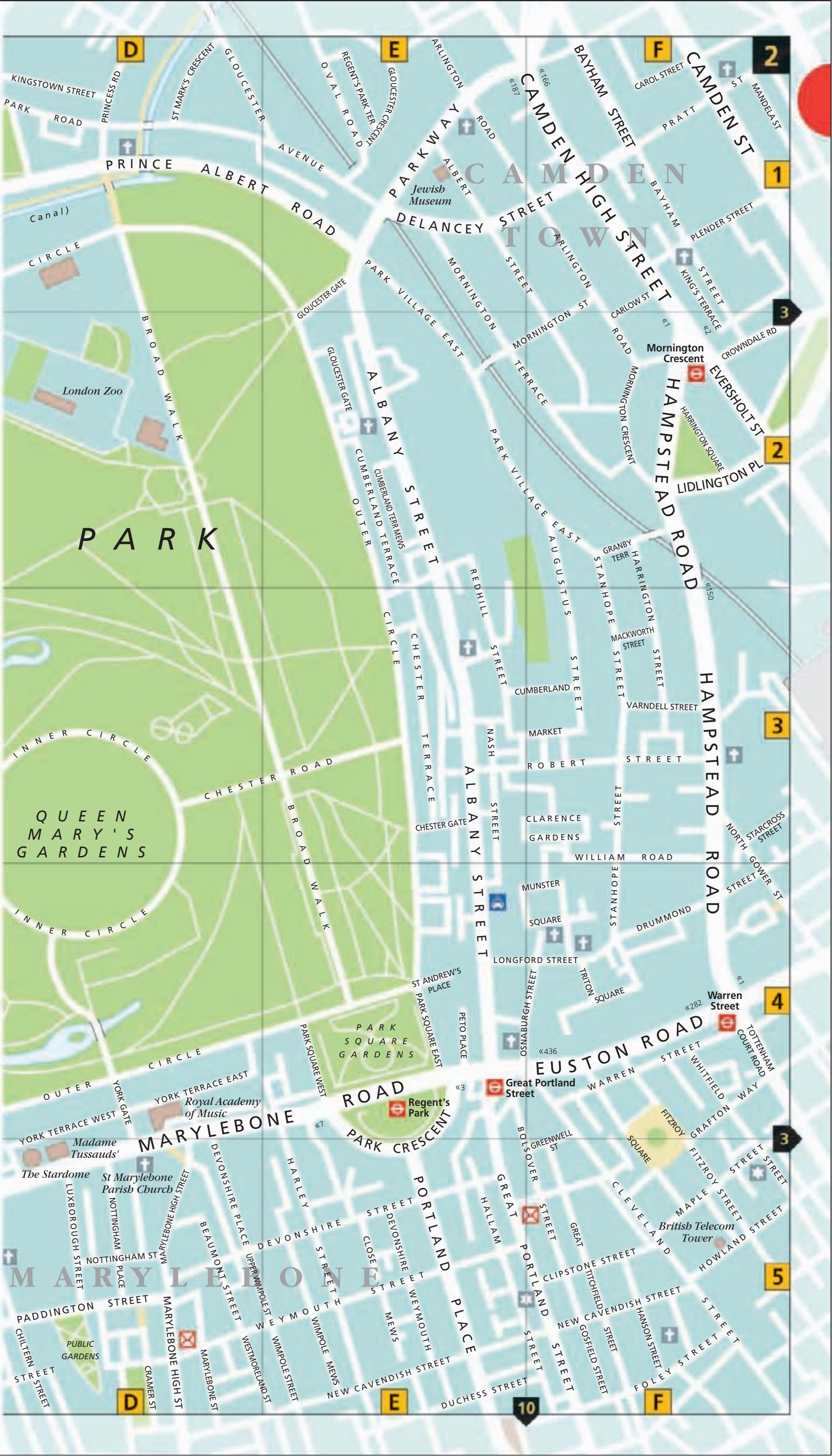
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CAMDEN TOWN
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MARYLEBONE
London Zoo
Jewish Museum
Royal Academy of Music
Madame Tussauds'
The Stardome
St Marylebone Parish Church
British Telecom Tower
Mornington Crescent
Warren Street
Great Portland Street
Regent's Park
KINGSTOWN STREET
PRINCESS RD
PARK ROAD
ST MARK'S CRESCENT
GLOUCESTER AVENUE
REGENT'S PARK TER
OVAL ROAD
GLOUCESTER CRESCENT
ARLINGTON ROAD
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BAYHAM STREET
CAROL STREET
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MANDELA ST
PRINCE ALBERT ROAD
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CAMDEN HIGH STREET
BAYHAM ST
PLENDER STREET
KING'S TERRACE
ARLINGTON ST
MORNINGTON ST
CARLOW ST
ROAD
CROWNDALE RD
GLOUCESTER GATE
PARK VILLAGE EAST
MORNINGTON TERRACE
BROAD WALK
GLOUCESTER GATE
ALBANY STREET
CUMBERLAND TERR MEWS
OUTER CUMBERLAND TERRACE
MORNINGTON CRESCENT
HAMPSTEAD ROAD
EVERSHOLT ST
HARRINGTON SQUARE
LIDLINGTON PL
GRANBY TERR
STANHOPE STREET
HARRINGTON STREET
AUGUSTUS STREET
REDHILL STREET
MACKWORTH STREET
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CHESTER TERRACE
CUMBERLAND MARKET
VARNDELL STREET
NASH STREET
ROBERT STREET
INNER CIRCLE
CHESTER ROAD
CHESTER GATE
CLARENCE GARDENS
WILLIAM ROAD
NORTH GOWER ST
STARCROSS STREET
MUNSTER SQUARE
DRUMMOND STREET
LONGFORD STREET
TRITON SQUARE
ST ANDREW'S PLACE
PARK SQUARE EAST
PETO PLACE
OSNABURGH STREET
PARK SQUARE GARDENS
PARK SQUARE WEST
OUTER CIRCLE
YORK GATE
YORK TERRACE EAST
YORK TERRACE WEST
MARYLEBONE ROAD
EUSTON ROAD
WARREN STREET
TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
WHITFIELD STREET
GRAFTON WAY
FITZROY SQUARE
FITZROY STREET
PARK CRESCENT
BOLSOVER STREET
GREENWELL ST
GREAT PORTLAND STREET
HALLAM STREET
PORTLAND PLACE
CLEVELAND STREET
MAPLE STREET
HOWLAND STREET
DEVONSHIRE PLACE
HARLEY STREET
DEVONSHIRE STREET
DEVONSHIRE CLOSE
DEVONSHIRE MEWS
WEYMOUTH STREET
WEYMOUTH MEWS
CLIPSTONE STREET
GREAT TITCHFIELD STREET
NEW CAVENDISH STREET
HANSON STREET
GOSFIELD STREET
LUXBOROUGH STREET
NOTTINGHAM PLACE
NOTTINGHAM ST
MARYLEBONE HIGH STREET
BEAUMONT STREET
UPPER WIMPOLE ST
WIMPOLE STREET
WIMPOLE MEWS
PADDINGTON STREET
PUBLIC GARDENS
CHILTERN STREET
CRAMER ST
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MARYLEBONE ST
WESTMORELAND ST
NEW CAVENDISH STREET
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FOLEY STREET
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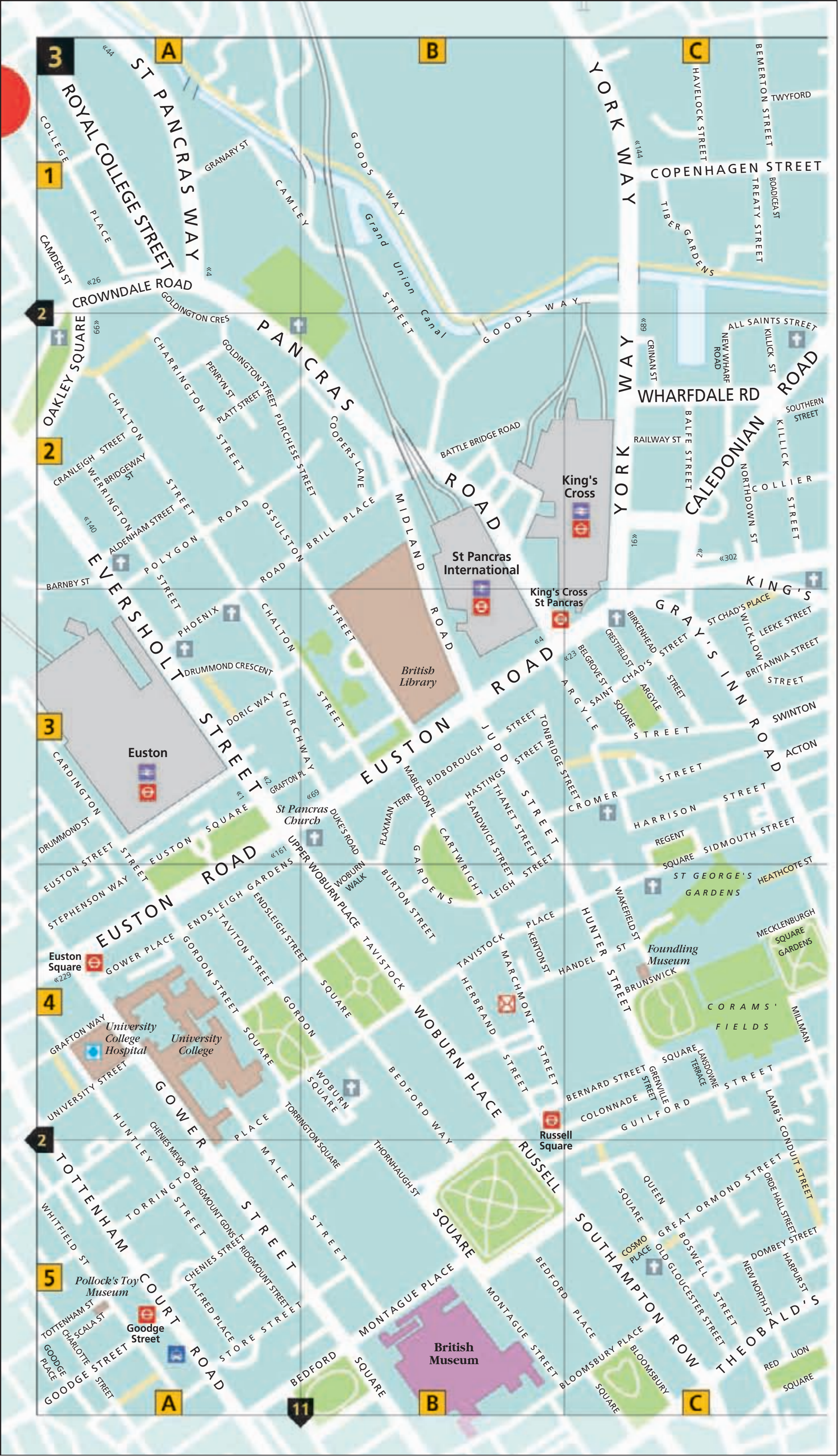
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ROYAL COLLEGE STREET
ST PANCRAS WAY
COLLEGE PLACE
CAMDEN ST
GRANARY ST
CAMLEY
GOODS WAY
Grand Union Canal
YORK WAY
HAVELOCK STREET
BEMERTON STREET
TWYFORD
COPENHAGEN STREET
TREATY STREET
BOADICEA ST
TIBER GARDENS
CROWNDALE ROAD
GOLDINGTON CRES
OAKLEY SQUARE
PANCRAS ROAD
STREET
GOODS WAY
CRINAN ST
ALL SAINTS STREET
NEW WHARF ROAD
KILLICK ST
WHARFDALE RD
CALEDONIAN ROAD
SOUTHERN STREET
KILLICK
CHARRINGTON STREET
GOLDINGTON STREET
PENRYN ST
PLATT STREET
PURCHESE STREET
COOPERS LANE
CHALTON STREET
CRANLEIGH STREET
BRIDGEWAY ST
WERRINGTON
ALDENHAM STREET
POLYGON ROAD
OSSULSTON
BRILL PLACE
MIDLAND ROAD
BATTLE BRIDGE ROAD
RAILWAY ST
BALFE STREET
NORTHDOWN ST
COLLIER STREET
King's Cross
St Pancras International
King's Cross St Pancras
BARNBY ST
EVERSHOLT STREET
PHOENIX
DRUMMOND CRESCENT
CHALTON
British Library
KING'S
GRAY'S INN ROAD
ST CHAD'S PLACE
WICKLOW
LEEKE STREET
BRITANNIA STREET
BIRKENHEAD STREET
CRESTFIELD ST
BELGROVE ST
SAINT CHAD'S
ARGYLE SQUARE
ARGYLE STREET
SWINTON
ACTON
STREET
DORIC WAY
CHURCHWAY
Euston
CARDINGTON
DRUMMOND ST
EUSTON ROAD
GRAFTON PL
JUDD STREET
TONBRIDGE STREET
BIDBOROUGH
MABLEDON PL
FLAXMAN TERR
HASTINGS
SANDWICH STREET
THANET STREET
CROMER
HARRISON
STREET
St Pancras Church
DUKE'S ROAD
EUSTON SQUARE
EUSTON STREET
STEPHENSON WAY
UPPER WOBURN PLACE
WOBURN WALK
GARDENS
CARTWRIGHT
LEIGH
REGENT SQUARE
SIDMOUTH STREET
HEATHCOTE ST
ST GEORGE'S GARDENS
ENDSLEIGH GARDENS
ENDSLEIGH STREET
TAVITON STREET
BURTON STREET
TAVISTOCK PLACE
KENTON ST
HANDEL
HUNTER STREET
WAKEFIELD ST
Foundling Museum
MECKLENBURGH SQUARE GARDENS
BRUNSWICK
Euston Square
GOWER PLACE
GORDON STREET
TAVISTOCK SQUARE
MARCHMONT STREET
HERBRAND STREET
WOBURN PLACE
CORAMS' FIELDS
MILLMAN
GRAFTON WAY
University College Hospital
University College
GORDON SQUARE
WOBURN SQUARE
BEDFORD WAY
BERNARD STREET
GRENVILLE STREET
SQUARE
LANSDOWNE TERRACE
COLONNADE
GUILFORD STREET
LAMB'S CONDUIT STREET
UNIVERSITY STREET
GOWER
PLACE
TORRINGTON SQUARE
Russell Square
HUNTLEY
CHENIES MEWS
MALET STREET
THORNHAUGH ST
RUSSELL SQUARE
QUEEN SQUARE
TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
WHITFIELD ST
TORRINGTON
RIDGMOUNT GDNS
STREET
CHENIES STREET
RIDGMOUNT STREET
ALFRED PLACE
STORE STREET
SOUTHAMPTON ROW
GREAT ORMOND STREET
ORDE HALL STREET
COSMO PLACE
OLD GLOUCESTER STREET
BOSWELL STREET
DOMBEY STREET
HARPUR ST
NEW NORTH ST
THEOBALD'S
Pollock's Toy Museum
Goodge Street
TOTTENHAM ST
CHARLOTTE
SCALA ST
GOODGE PLACE
GOODGE STREET
MONTAGUE PLACE
British Museum
MONTAGUE STREET
BEDFORD PLACE
BLOOMSBURY PLACE
BLOOMSBURY SQUARE
BEDFORD SQUARE
RED LION SQUARE
«44
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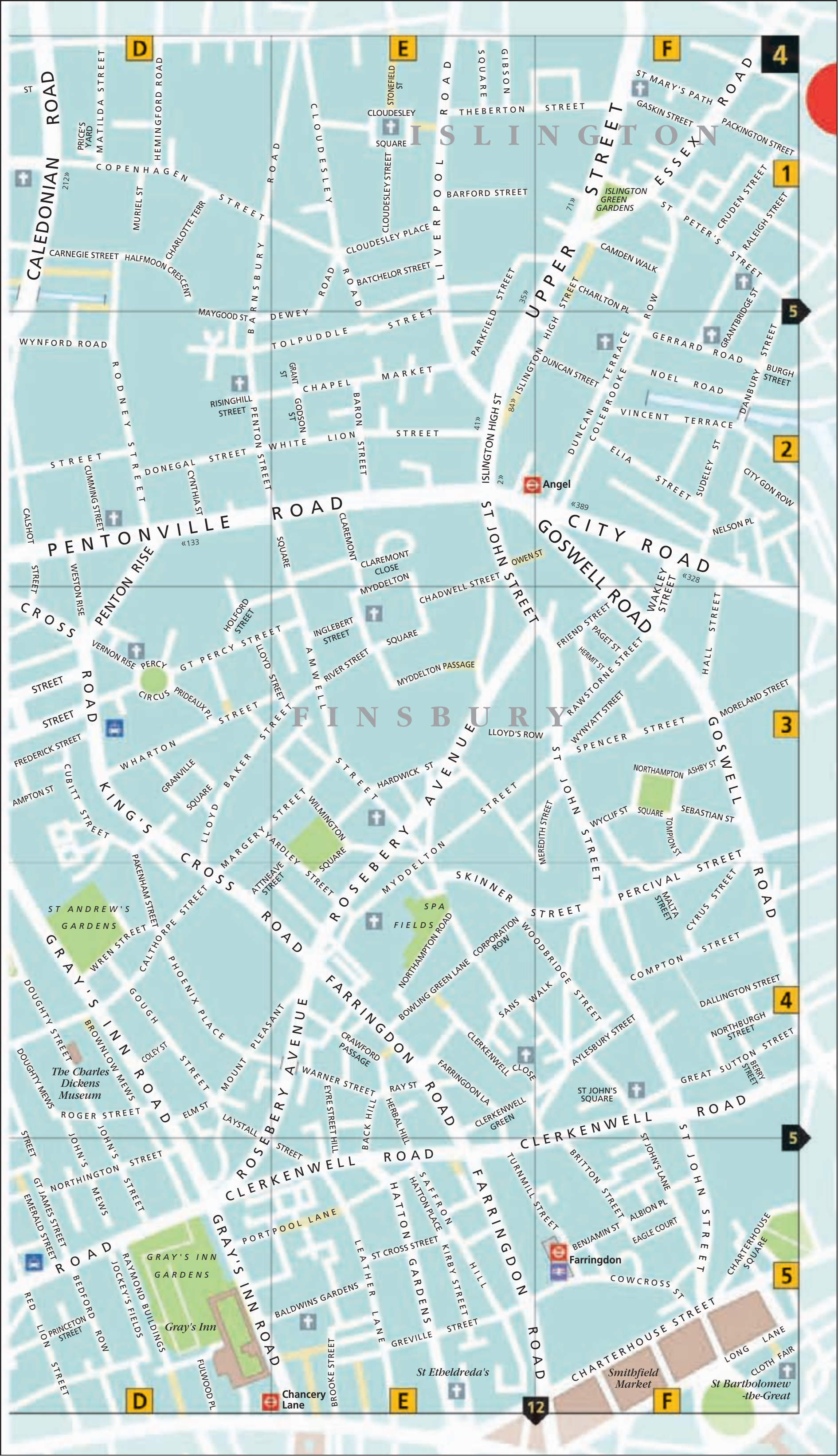
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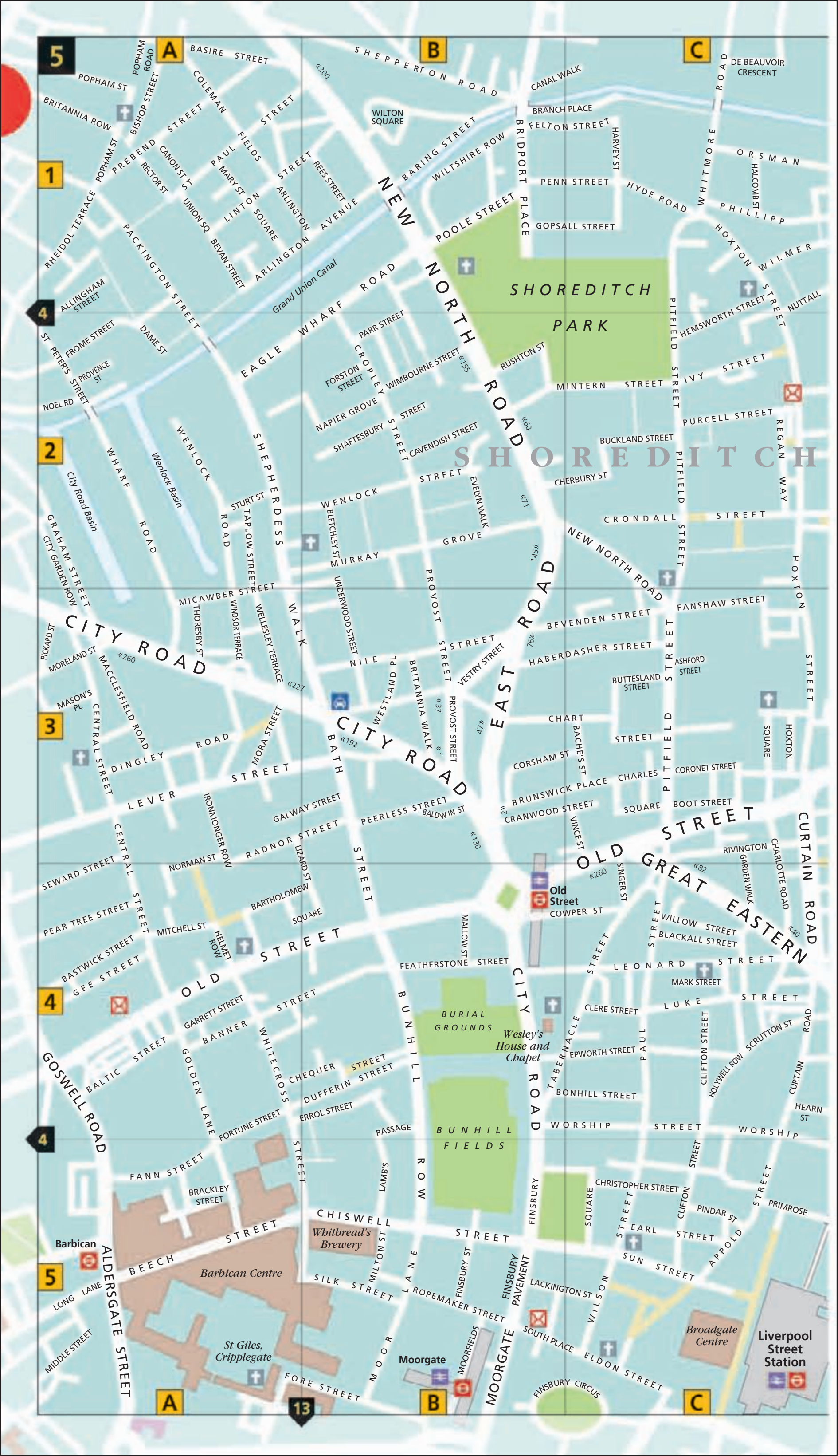
ISLINGTON
FINSBURY
CALEDONIAN ROAD
ST
212»
PRICE'S YARD
MATILDA STREET
HEMINGFORD ROAD
COPENHAGEN STREET
MURIEL ST
CHARLOTTE TERR
CARNEGIE STREET
HALFMOON CRESCENT
BARNSBURY ROAD
CLOUDESLEY ROAD
STONEFIELD ST
CLOUDESLEY SQUARE
CLOUDESLEY STREET
CLOUDESLEY PLACE
BATCHELOR STREET
LIVERPOOL ROAD
SQUARE
GIBSON
THEBERTON STREET
BARFORD STREET
ST MARY'S PATH
GASKIN STREET
PACKINGTON STREET
ESSEX ROAD
UPPER STREET
71»
ISLINGTON GREEN GARDENS
ST PETER'S STREET
CRUDEN STREET
RALEIGH STREET
CAMDEN WALK
CHARLTON PL
PARKFIELD STREET
35»
ISLINGTON HIGH STREET
COLEBROOKE ROW
GRANTBRIDGE ST
GERRARD ROAD
DUNCAN STREET
DUNCAN TERRACE
NOEL ROAD
BURGH STREET
DANBURY STREET
VINCENT TERRACE
84»
41»
ISLINGTON HIGH ST
WYNFORD ROAD
MAYGOOD ST
DEWEY STREET
TOLPUDDLE STREET
RODNEY STREET
RISINGHILL STREET
GRANT ST
CHAPEL MARKET
GODSON ST
BARON STREET
WHITE LION STREET
PENTON STREET
DONEGAL STREET
CYNTHIA ST
CUMMING STREET
ELIA STREET
SUDELEY ST
CITY GDN ROW
2»
Angel
«389
CITY ROAD
NELSON PL
«328
CALSHOT STREET
PENTONVILLE ROAD
«133
CLAREMONT SQUARE
CLAREMONT CLOSE
MYDDELTON SQUARE
OWEN ST
ST JOHN STREET
GOSWELL ROAD
WAKLEY STREET
WESTON RISE
PENTON RISE
CROSS STREET
HOLFORD STREET
CHADWELL STREET
VERNON RISE
PERCY CIRCUS
GT PERCY STREET
LLOYD STREET
INGLEBERT STREET
RIVER STREET
AMWELL STREET
FRIEND STREET
PAGET ST
HERMIT ST
RAWSTORNE STREET
HALL STREET
MYDDELTON PASSAGE
PRIDEAUX PL
STREET
FREDERICK STREET
WHARTON STREET
LLOYD'S ROW
WYNYATT STREET
MORELAND STREET
SPENCER STREET
LLOYD BAKER STREET
GRANVILLE SQUARE
AMPTON ST
CUBITT STREET
HARDWICK ST
ROSEBERY AVENUE
NORTHAMPTON SQUARE
ASHBY ST
SEBASTIAN ST
TOMPION ST
WYCLIF ST
MEREDITH STREET
KING'S CROSS ROAD
MARGERY STREET
WILMINGTON SQUARE
YARDLEY STREET
ATTNEAVE STREET
MYDDELTON STREET
SKINNER STREET
PERCIVAL STREET
MALTA STREET
CYRUS STREET
PAKENHAM STREET
ST ANDREW'S GARDENS
WREN STREET
CALTHORPE STREET
PHOENIX PLACE
SPA FIELDS
NORTHAMPTON ROAD
CORPORATION ROW
WOODBRIDGE STREET
COMPTON STREET
DALLINGTON STREET
GRAY'S INN ROAD
DOUGHTY STREET
GOUGH STREET
BOWLING GREEN LANE
SANS WALK
NORTHBURGH STREET
BROWNLOW MEWS
COLEY ST
MOUNT PLEASANT
FARRINGDON ROAD
CRAWFORD PASSAGE
CLERKENWELL CLOSE
AYLESBURY STREET
GREAT SUTTON STREET
BERRY STREET
DOUGHTY MEWS
The Charles Dickens Museum
WARNER STREET
RAY ST
FARRINGDON LA
ST JOHN'S SQUARE
ROGER STREET
JOHN'S MEWS
JOHN'S STREET
ELM ST
LAYSTALL STREET
EYRE STREET HILL
BACK HILL
HERBAL HILL
CLERKENWELL GREEN
CLERKENWELL ROAD
ST JOHN'S LANE
NORTHINGTON STREET
BRITTON STREET
TURNMILL STREET
SAFFRON HILL
HATTON PLACE
HATTON GARDEN
GT JAMES STREET
EMERALD STREET
PORTPOOL LANE
ALBION PL
BENJAMIN ST
EAGLE COURT
CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE
GRAY'S INN GARDENS
ST CROSS STREET
KIRBY STREET
Farringdon
COWCROSS ST
RED LION STREET
BEDFORD ROW
JOCKEY'S FIELDS
RAYMOND BUILDINGS
PRINCETON STREET
Gray's Inn
BALDWINS GARDENS
LEATHER LANE
GREVILLE STREET
CHARTERHOUSE STREET
LONG LANE
CLOTH FAIR
Smithfield Market
St Bartholomew -the-Great
St Etheldreda's
FULWOOD PL
Chancery Lane
BROOKE STREET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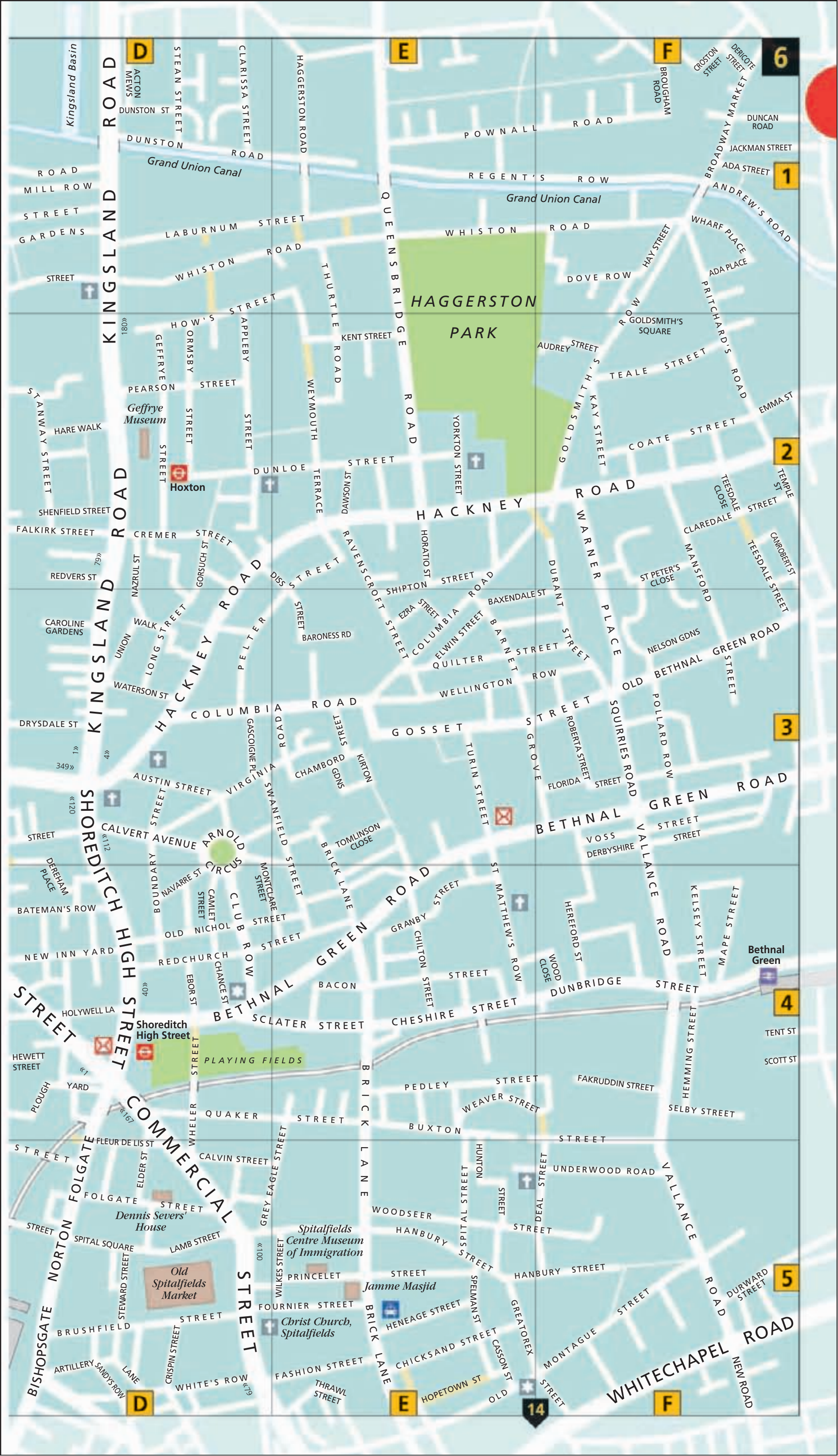
13
POPHAM ST
POPHAM ROAD
BASIRE STREET
SHEPPERTON ROAD
«200
DE BEAUVOIR CRESCENT
CANAL WALK
BRANCH PLACE
FELTON STREET
HARVEY ST
WILTON SQUARE
BRITANNIA ROW
BISHOP STREET
COLEMAN STREET
FIELDS STREET
PREBEND STREET
POPHAM ST
CANON ST
PAUL ST
MARY ST
RECTOR ST
UNION SQ
LINTON SQUARE
REES STREET
ARLINGTON AVENUE
ARLINGTON
BEVAN STREET
BARING STREET
WILTSHIRE ROW
BRIDPORT PLACE
PENN STREET
HYDE ROAD
WHITMORE ROAD
ORSMAN
HALCOMB ST
PHILLIPP
HOXTON STREET
WILMER
NUTTALL
RHEIDOL TERRACE
PACKINGTON STREET
Grand Union Canal
NEW NORTH ROAD
POOLE STREET
GOPSALL STREET
SHOREDITCH PARK
HEMSWORTH STREET
ALLINGHAM STREET
WHARF ROAD
EAGLE
ST PETER'S STREET
FROME STREET
DAME ST
PARR STREET
FORSTON STREET
CROPLEY STREET
WIMBOURNE STREET
«155
RUSHTON ST
PITFIELD STREET
IVY STREET
MINTERN STREET
PROVENCE ST
NOEL RD
NAPIER GROVE
SHAFTESBURY STREET
CAVENDISH STREET
«60
PURCELL STREET
BUCKLAND STREET
REGAN WAY
SHOREDITCH
WHARF ROAD
Wenlock Basin
WENLOCK ROAD
City Road Basin
SHEPHERDESS WALK
STURT ST
TAPLOW STREET
WENLOCK STREET
BLETCHLEY ST
EVELYN WALK
«71
CHERBURY ST
CRONDALL STREET
GRAHAM STREET
CITY GARDEN ROW
MURRAY GROVE
145»
NEW NORTH ROAD
HOXTON
MICAWBER STREET
THORESBY ST
WINDSOR TERRACE
WELLESLEY TERRACE
UNDERWOOD STREET
PROVOST STREET
EAST ROAD
BEVENDEN STREET
FANSHAW STREET
CITY ROAD
«260
PICKARD ST
MORELAND ST
MACCLESFIELD ROAD
MASON'S PL
NILE STREET
WESTLAND PL
BRITANNIA WALK
VESTRY STREET
HABERDASHER STREET
ASHFORD STREET
BUTTESLAND STREET
76»
«227
«192
«37
«1
47»
PROVOST STREET
CHART STREET
BACHE'S ST
CORSHAM ST
SQUARE
HOXTON
CENTRAL STREET
DINGLEY ROAD
MORA STREET
BATH STREET
CITY ROAD
CHARLES SQUARE
CORONET STREET
BRUNSWICK PLACE
CRANWOOD STREET
BOOT STREET
LEVER STREET
IRONMONGER ROW
GALWAY STREET
PEERLESS STREET
BALDWIN ST
«130
2»
OLD STREET
CURTAIN ROAD
RIVINGTON
CHARLOTTE ROAD
GARDEN WALK
NORMAN ST
RADNOR STREET
LIZARD ST
VINCE ST
SINGER ST
«260
«82
GREAT EASTERN
Old Street
COWPER ST
SEWARD STREET
BARTHOLOMEW SQUARE
WILLOW STREET
BLACKALL STREET
«40
PEAR TREE STREET
MITCHELL ST
HELMET ROW
MALLOW ST
FEATHERSTONE STREET
LEONARD STREET
MARK STREET
BASTWICK STREET
GEE STREET
OLD STREET
BUNHILL ROW
CITY ROAD
BURIAL GROUNDS
Wesley's House and Chapel
CLERE STREET
LUKE STREET
GARRETT STREET
BANNER STREET
WHITECROSS STREET
EPWORTH STREET
TABERNACLE STREET
PAUL STREET
SCRUTTON ST
HOLYWELL ROW
CLIFTON STREET
GOSWELL ROAD
BALTIC STREET
GOLDEN LANE
CHEQUER STREET
DUFFERIN STREET
ERROL STREET
FORTUNE STREET
BONHILL STREET
CURTAIN ROAD
HEARN ST
WORSHIP STREET
PASSAGE
BUNHILL FIELDS
LAMB'S
FANN STREET
BRACKLEY STREET
CHRISTOPHER STREET
FINSBURY SQUARE
CLIFTON STREET
PINDAR ST
PRIMROSE STREET
CHISWELL STREET
Whitbread's Brewery
EARL STREET
Barbican
BEECH STREET
MILTON ST
SUN STREET
APPOLD
ALDERSGATE STREET
Barbican Centre
SILK STREET
LANE
ROPEMAKER STREET
FINSBURY ST
FINSBURY PAVEMENT
LACKINGTON ST
WILSON
LONG LANE
Broadgate Centre
Liverpool Street Station
MIDDLE STREET
St Giles, Cripplegate
MOOR
Moorgate
MOORFIELDS
MOORGATE
SOUTH PLACE
ELDON STREET
FINSBURY CIRCUS
FORE STREET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Kingsland Basin
KINGSLAND ROAD
ACTON MEWS
DUNSTON ST
STEAN STREET
CLARISSA STREET
HAGGERSTON ROAD
BROUGHAM ROAD
CROSTON STREET
DERICOTE STREET
BROADWAY MARKET
DUNCAN ROAD
JACKMAN STREET
ADA STREET
DUNSTON ROAD
Grand Union Canal
POWNALL ROAD
REGENT'S ROW
ROAD
MILL ROW
STREET
GARDENS
LABURNUM STREET
WHISTON ROAD
QUEENSBRIDGE ROAD
ANDREW'S ROAD
WHARF PLACE
ADA PLACE
HAY STREET
DOVE ROW
STREET
HOW'S STREET
APPLEBY
THURTLE ROAD
KENT STREET
HAGGERSTON PARK
GOLDSMITH'S ROW
GOLDSMITH'S SQUARE
PRITCHARD'S ROAD
AUDREY STREET
TEALE STREET
180»
GEFFRYE STREET
ORMSBY STREET
PEARSON STREET
Geffrye Museum
WEYMOUTH TERRACE
YORKTON STREET
KAY STREET
EMMA ST
STANWAY STREET
HARE WALK
COATE STREET
Hoxton
DUNLOE STREET
DAWSON ST
TEESDALE CLOSE
TEMPLE ST
HACKNEY ROAD
SHENFIELD STREET
FALKIRK STREET
CREMER STREET
GORSUCH ST
RAVENSCROFT STREET
HORATIO ST
DURANT STREET
WARNER PLACE
CLAREDALE STREET
MANSFORD
CANROBERT ST
TEESDALE STREET
79»
REDVERS ST
NAZRUL ST
DISS STREET
SHIPTON STREET
EZRA STREET
BAXENDALE ST
ST PETER'S CLOSE
CAROLINE GARDENS
WALK
UNION
LONG STREET
HACKNEY ROAD
PELTER STREET
BARONESS RD
COLUMBIA ROAD
ELWIN STREET
BARNET GROVE
QUILTER STREET
NELSON GDNS
OLD BETHNAL GREEN ROAD
WATERSON ST
WELLINGTON ROW
POLLARD ROW
DRYSDALE ST
COLUMBIA ROAD
GASCOIGNE PL
GOSSET STREET
TURIN STREET
ROBERTA STREET
SQUIRRIES ROAD
1»
4»
349»
AUSTIN STREET
VIRGINIA ROAD
CHAMBORD STREET
GDNS
KIRTON
FLORIDA STREET
«120
SHOREDITCH HIGH STREET
CALVERT AVENUE
ARNOLD CIRCUS
SWANFIELD STREET
TOMLINSON CLOSE
BETHNAL GREEN ROAD
VOSS STREET
DERBYSHIRE STREET
VALLANCE ROAD
STREET
«112
DEREHAM PLACE
BOUNDARY STREET
NAVARRE ST
CAMLET STREET
MONTCLARE STREET
BRICK LANE
ST MATTHEW'S ROW
HEREFORD ST
KELSEY STREET
MAPE STREET
BATEMAN'S ROW
OLD NICHOL STREET
CLUB ROW
GRANBY STREET
CHILTON STREET
WOOD CLOSE
Bethnal Green
NEW INN YARD
REDCHURCH STREET
CHANCE ST
BACON STREET
DUNBRIDGE STREET
40»
EBOR ST
HOLYWELL LA
BETHNAL GREEN ROAD
SCLATER STREET
CHESHIRE STREET
HEMMING STREET
TENT ST
Shoreditch High Street
PLAYING FIELDS
SCOTT ST
HEWETT STREET
«1
YARD
PLOUGH
PEDLEY STREET
FAKRUDDIN STREET
WEAVER STREET
SELBY STREET
WHELER STREET
QUAKER STREET
BUXTON STREET
«167
COMMERCIAL STREET
FLEUR DE LIS ST
STREET
ELDER ST
CALVIN STREET
GREY EAGLE STREET
HUNTON STREET
DEAL STREET
UNDERWOOD ROAD
FOLGATE STREET
WOODSEER STREET
Dennis Severs' House
SPITAL STREET
NORTON FOLGATE
SPITAL SQUARE
LAMB STREET
Spitalfields Centre Museum of Immigration
HANBURY STREET
«100
WILKES STREET
PRINCELET STREET
Old Spitalfields Market
STEWARD STREET
Jamme Masjid
FOURNIER STREET
SPELMAN ST
GREATOREX STREET
DURWARD STREET
BRUSHFIELD STREET
Christ Church, Spitalfields
HENEAGE STREET
CHICKSAND STREET
CASSON ST
MONTAGUE STREET
CRISPIN STREET
ARTILLERY LANE
SANDYS ROW
WHITE'S ROW
«79
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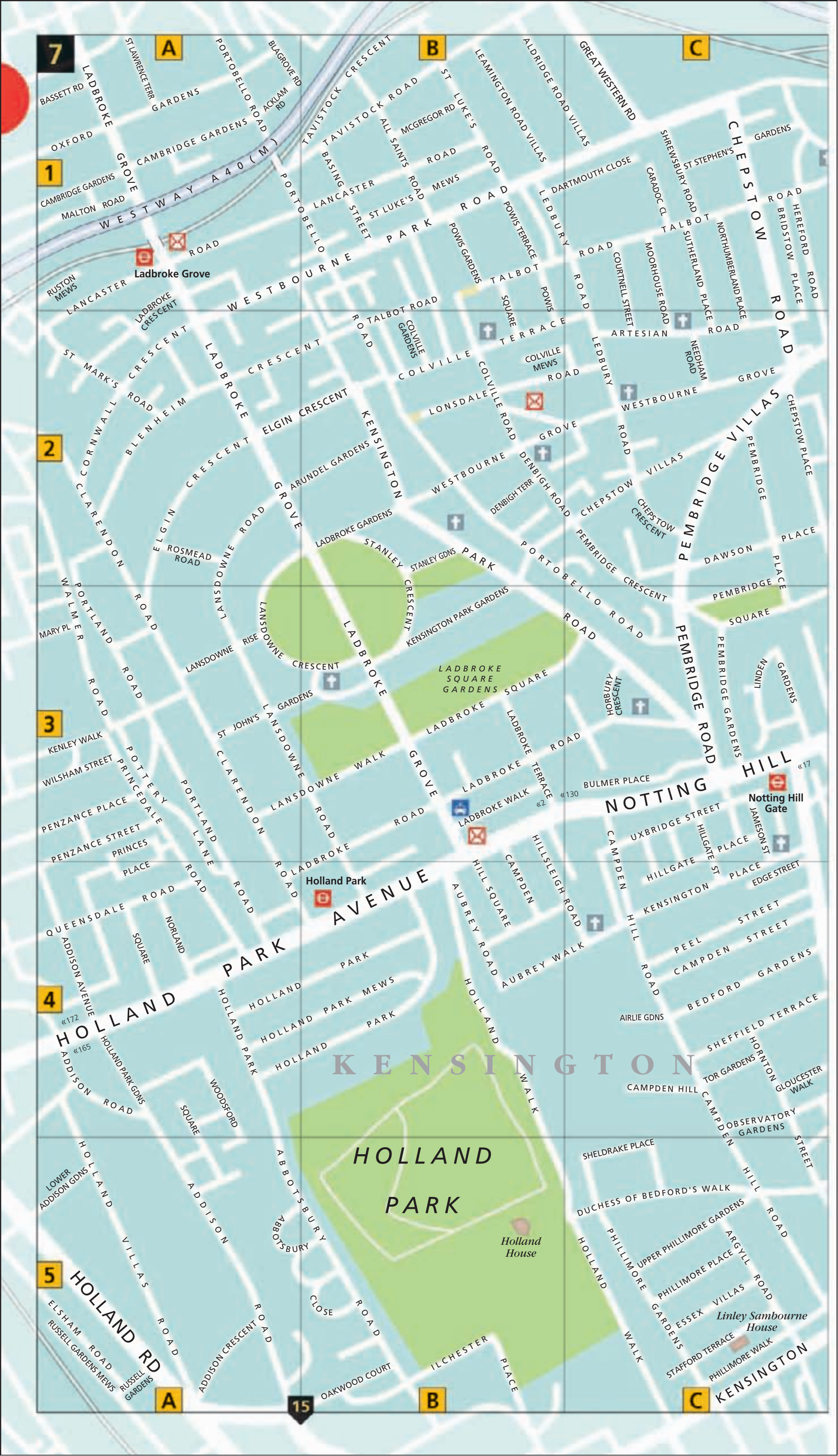
THRAWL STREET
HOPETOWN ST
OLD
WHITECHAPEL ROAD
NEW ROAD
BISHOPSGATE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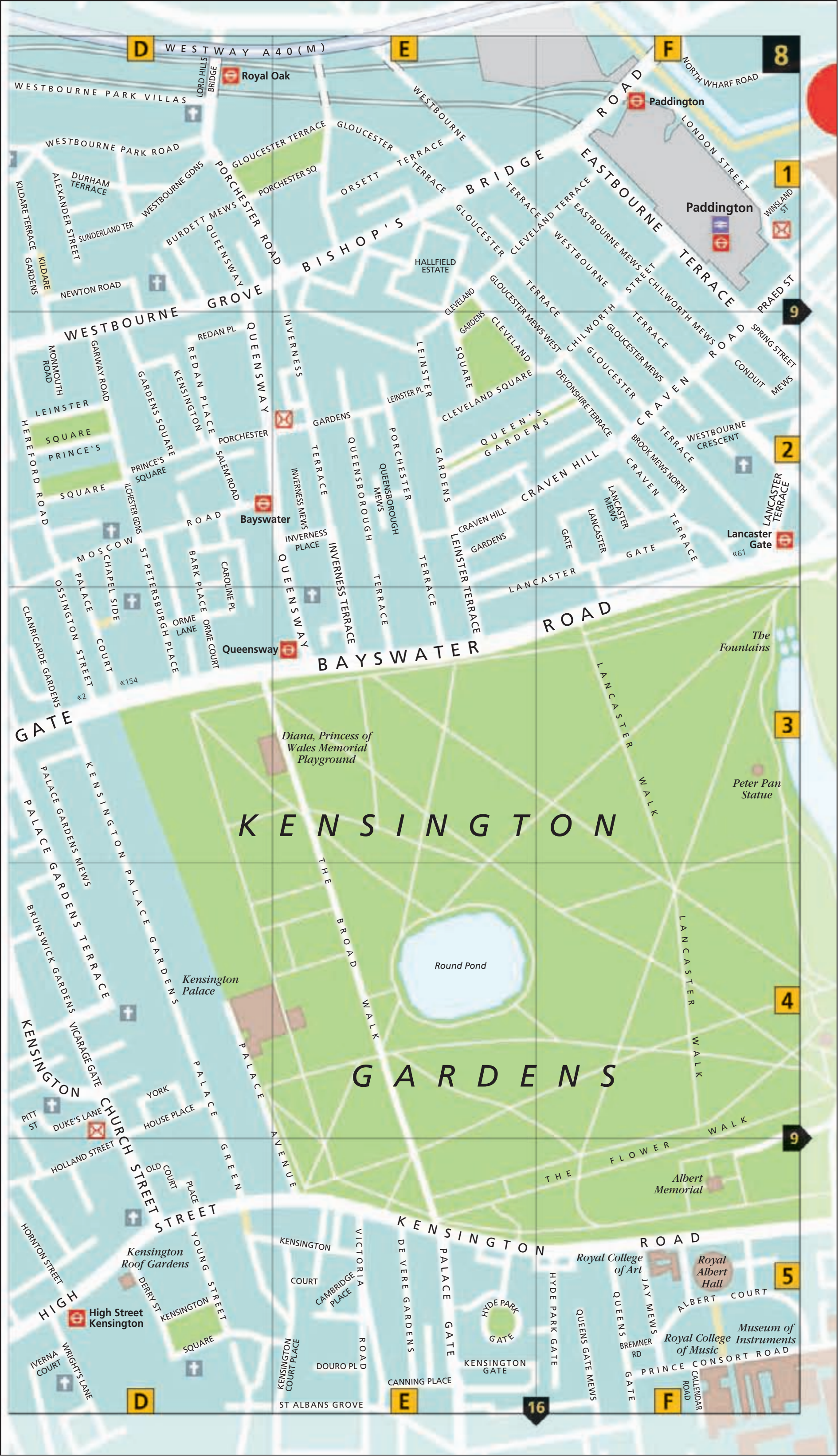
15
BASSETT RD
LADBROKE GROVE
ST LAWRENCE TERR
GARDENS
PORTOBELLO ROAD
BLAGROVE RD
ACKLAM RD
TAVISTOCK CRESCENT
TAVISTOCK ROAD
ALL SAINTS ROAD
MCGREGOR RD
ST LUKE'S ROAD
LEAMINGTON ROAD VILLAS
ALDRIDGE ROAD VILLAS
GREAT WESTERN RD
OXFORD GARDENS
CAMBRIDGE GARDENS
WESTWAY A40(M)
CAMBRIDGE GARDENS
MALTON ROAD
LANCASTER ROAD
BASING STREET
ST LUKE'S MEWS
ROAD
WESTBOURNE PARK ROAD
POWIS TERRACE
POWIS GARDENS
DARTMOUTH CLOSE
LEDBURY ROAD
CARADOC CL
SHREWSBURY ROAD
ST STEPHEN'S GARDENS
CHEPSTOW ROAD
TALBOT ROAD
SUTHERLAND PLACE
NORTHUMBERLAND PLACE
BRIDSTOW PLACE
HEREFORD ROAD
Ladbroke Grove
RUSTON MEWS
LANCASTER
LADBROKE CRESCENT
TALBOT ROAD
COLVILLE GARDENS
TALBOT
POWIS SQUARE
MOORHOUSE ROAD
COURTNELL STREET
ARTESIAN ROAD
NEEDHAM ROAD
ST MARK'S ROAD
CRESCENT
COLVILLE TERRACE
COLVILLE MEWS
COLVILLE ROAD
GROVE
ELGIN CRESCENT
LONSDALE ROAD
WESTBOURNE GROVE
CORNWALL CRESCENT
BLENHEIM CRESCENT
KENSINGTON PARK ROAD
LEDBURY ROAD
PEMBRIDGE VILLAS
CHEPSTOW PLACE
CLARENDON ROAD
ARUNDEL GARDENS
WESTBOURNE GROVE
DENBIGH TERR
DENBIGH ROAD
CHEPSTOW VILLAS
CHEPSTOW CRESCENT
PEMBRIDGE
ELGIN CRESCENT
ROSMEAD ROAD
LANSDOWNE ROAD
LADBROKE GARDENS
STANLEY CRESCENT
STANLEY GDNS
PORTOBELLO ROAD
PEMBRIDGE CRESCENT
DAWSON PLACE
PEMBRIDGE SQUARE
WALMER ROAD
PORTLAND ROAD
MARY PL
LANSDOWNE RISE
LANSDOWNE CRESCENT
KENSINGTON PARK GARDENS
LADBROKE SQUARE GARDENS
LADBROKE SQUARE
HORBURY CRESCENT
PEMBRIDGE ROAD
PEMBRIDGE GARDENS
LINDEN GARDENS
KENLEY WALK
WILSHAM STREET
POTTERY LANE
PRINCEDALE ROAD
ST JOHN'S GARDENS
LANSDOWNE WALK
LADBROKE ROAD
LADBROKE TERRACE
BULMER PLACE
NOTTING HILL
«17
Notting Hill Gate
PENZANCE PLACE
PENZANCE STREET
PRINCES PLACE
CLARENDON ROAD
LADBROKE WALK
«2
«130
UXBRIDGE STREET
HILLGATE PLACE
JAMESON ST
HILLGATE ST
HILLGATE PLACE
EDGE STREET
Holland Park
HOLLAND PARK AVENUE
HILL SQUARE
CAMPDEN HILL SQUARE
HILLSLEIGH ROAD
CAMPDEN HILL ROAD
KENSINGTON PLACE
QUEENSDALE ROAD
NORLAND SQUARE
AUBREY ROAD
AUBREY WALK
PEEL STREET
CAMPDEN STREET
ADDISON AVENUE
HOLLAND PARK
HOLLAND PARK MEWS
BEDFORD GARDENS
HOLLAND WALK
«172
«165
HOLLAND PARK GDNS
AIRLIE GDNS
SHEFFIELD TERRACE
HORNTON STREET
KENSINGTON
ADDISON ROAD
WOODSFORD SQUARE
TOR GARDENS
CAMPDEN HILL
GLOUCESTER WALK
OBSERVATORY GARDENS
LOWER ADDISON GDNS
HOLLAND VILLAS ROAD
ADDISON ROAD
ABBOTSBURY ROAD
HOLLAND PARK
SHELDRAKE PLACE
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD'S WALK
CAMPDEN HILL ROAD
Holland House
UPPER PHILLIMORE GARDENS
PHILLIMORE GARDENS
ARGYLL ROAD
PHILLIMORE PLACE
ESSEX VILLAS
HOLLAND ROAD
ELSHAM ROAD
RUSSELL GARDENS MEWS
RUSSELL GARDENS
ADDISON CRESCENT
ABBOTSBURY CLOSE
ILCHESTER PLACE
OAKWOOD COURT
Linley Sambourne House
STAFFORD TERRACE
PHILLIMORE WALK
KENSINGTON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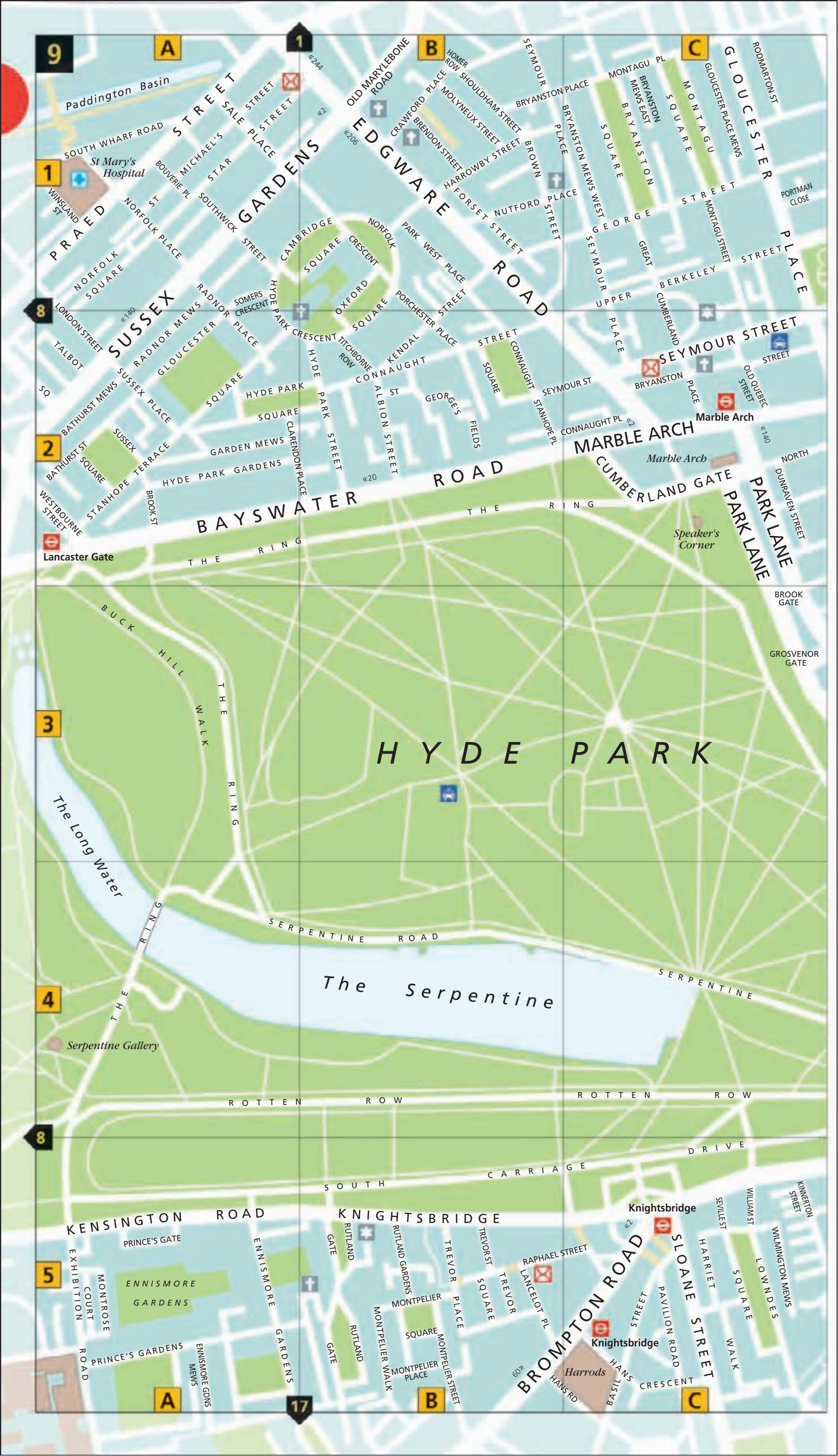
WESTWAY A40(M)
LORD HILLS BRIDGE
Royal Oak
WESTBOURNE PARK VILLAS
WESTBOURNE PARK ROAD
DURHAM TERRACE
ALEXANDER STREET
KILDARE TERRACE
KILDARE GARDENS
SUNDERLAND TER
WESTBOURNE GDNS
BURDETT MEWS
QUEENSWAY
PORCHESTER ROAD
GLOUCESTER TERRACE
PORCHESTER SQ
GLOUCESTER TERRACE
ORSETT TERRACE
WESTBOURNE TERRACE
BISHOP'S BRIDGE ROAD
NORTH WHARF ROAD
Paddington
LONDON STREET
Paddington
WINSLAND ST
EASTBOURNE TERRACE
PRAED ST
HALLFIELD ESTATE
NEWTON ROAD
WESTBOURNE GROVE
GLOUCESTER TERRACE
CLEVELAND TERRACE
EASTBOURNE MEWS
WESTBOURNE TERRACE
STREET
CHILWORTH MEWS
GLOUCESTER MEWS WEST
CHILWORTH STREET
SPRING STREET
CONDUIT MEWS
CLEVELAND GARDENS
CLEVELAND SQUARE
GLOUCESTER MEWS
GLOUCESTER TERRACE
CRAVEN ROAD
REDAN PL
MONMOUTH ROAD
GARWAY ROAD
LEINSTER SQUARE
PRINCE'S SQUARE
HEREFORD ROAD
GARDENS SQUARE
KENSINGTON
REDAN PLACE
INVERNESS TERRACE
LEINSTER PL
LEINSTER GARDENS
PORCHESTER GARDENS
QUEEN'S GARDENS
DEVONSHIRE TERRACE
WESTBOURNE CRESCENT
BROOK MEWS NORTH
CRAVEN TERRACE
PRINCE'S SQUARE
ILCHESTER GDNS
SALEM ROAD
Bayswater
INVERNESS MEWS
QUEENSBOROUGH TERRACE
QUEENSBOROUGH MEWS
PORCHESTER TERRACE
CRAVEN HILL
CRAVEN HILL GARDENS
LANCASTER MEWS
LANCASTER GATE
LANCASTER TERRACE
Lancaster Gate
«61
MOSCOW ROAD
CHAPEL SIDE
ST PETERSBURGH PLACE
BARK PLACE
CAROLINE PL
INVERNESS PLACE
INVERNESS TERRACE
PALACE COURT
OSSINGTON STREET
CLANRICARDE GARDENS
ORME LANE
ORME COURT
Queensway
LEINSTER TERRACE
LANCASTER
BAYSWATER ROAD
«154
«2
The Fountains
GATE
Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground
LANCASTER WALK
Peter Pan Statue
KENSINGTON GARDENS
PALACE GARDENS MEWS
PALACE GARDENS TERRACE
KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS
BRUNSWICK GARDENS
THE BROAD WALK
Round Pond
Kensington Palace
PALACE AVENUE
VICARAGE GATE
KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET
PALACE GREEN
YORK HOUSE PLACE
PITT ST
DUKE'S LANE
HOLLAND STREET
OLD COURT PLACE
THE FLOWER WALK
Albert Memorial
HIGH STREET KENSINGTON
KENSINGTON ROAD
Kensington Roof Gardens
HORNTON STREET
DERRY ST
YOUNG STREET
KENSINGTON SQUARE
High Street Kensington
IVERNA COURT
WRIGHT'S LANE
KENSINGTON COURT
KENSINGTON COURT PLACE
CAMBRIDGE PLACE
VICTORIA ROAD
DE VERE GARDENS
PALACE GATE
HYDE PARK GATE
KENSINGTON GATE
DOURO PL
CANNING PLACE
ST ALBANS GROVE
HYDE PARK GATE
QUEENS GATE MEWS
QUEENS GATE
JAY MEWS
Royal College of Art
Royal Albert Hall
ALBERT COURT
BREMNER RD
Royal College of Music
Museum of Instruments
PRINCE CONSORT ROAD
CALLENDAR ROAD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Paddington Basin
South Wharf Road
St Mary's Hospital
Winsland St
Praed Street
Sale Place
Street
Star Street
Michael's Street
Bouverie Pl
Norfolk Place
Norfolk Square
Southwick Street
Sussex Gardens
London Street
Talbot Sq
Radnor Mews
Radnor Place
Somers Crescent
Hyde Park Crescent
Cambridge Square
Norfolk Crescent
Oxford Square
Gloucester Square
Sussex Place
Sussex Square
Bathurst Mews
Bathurst St
Hyde Park Square
Hyde Park Gardens
Garden Mews
Stanhope Terrace
Westbourne Street
Brook St
Clarendon Place
Hyde Park Street
Titchborne Row
Kendal Street
Connaught Street
Albion Street
St George's Fields
Connaught Square
Stanhope Pl
Connaught Pl
Seymour St
Porchester Place
Park West Place
Edgware Road
Old Marylebone Road
Homer Row
Crawford Place
Brendon Street
Shouldham Street
Molyneux Street
Harrowby Street
Forset Street
Nutford Place
Brown Street
Seymour Place
Bryanston Place
Bryanston Mews West
Bryanston Mews East
Bryanston Square
Montagu Pl
Montagu Square
Gloucester Place Mews
Gloucester Place
Rodmarton St
Portman Close
Montagu Street
George Street
Great Cumberland Place
Upper Berkeley Street
Seymour Street
Bryanston Street
Old Quebec Street
Marble Arch
North
Dunraven Street
Cumberland Gate
Park Lane
Speaker's Corner
Brook Gate
Grosvenor Gate
Bayswater Road
Lancaster Gate
The Ring
Buck Hill Walk
The Long Water
Hyde Park
Serpentine Road
The Serpentine
Serpentine Gallery
Rotten Row
South Carriage Drive
Kensington Road
Knightsbridge
Prince's Gate
Exhibition Road
Montrose Court
Ennismore Gardens
Ennismore Gdns Mews
Prince's Gardens
Rutland Gate
Rutland Gardens
Trevor Place
Trevor Square
Trevor St
Montpelier Square
Montpelier Walk
Montpelier Place
Montpelier Street
Raphael Street
Lancelot Pl
Brompton Road
Hans Rd
Basil St
Hans Crescent
Harrods
Sloane Street
Pavilion Road
Seville St
William St
Kinnerton Street
Wilmington Mews
Lowndes Square
Harriet Walk
«244
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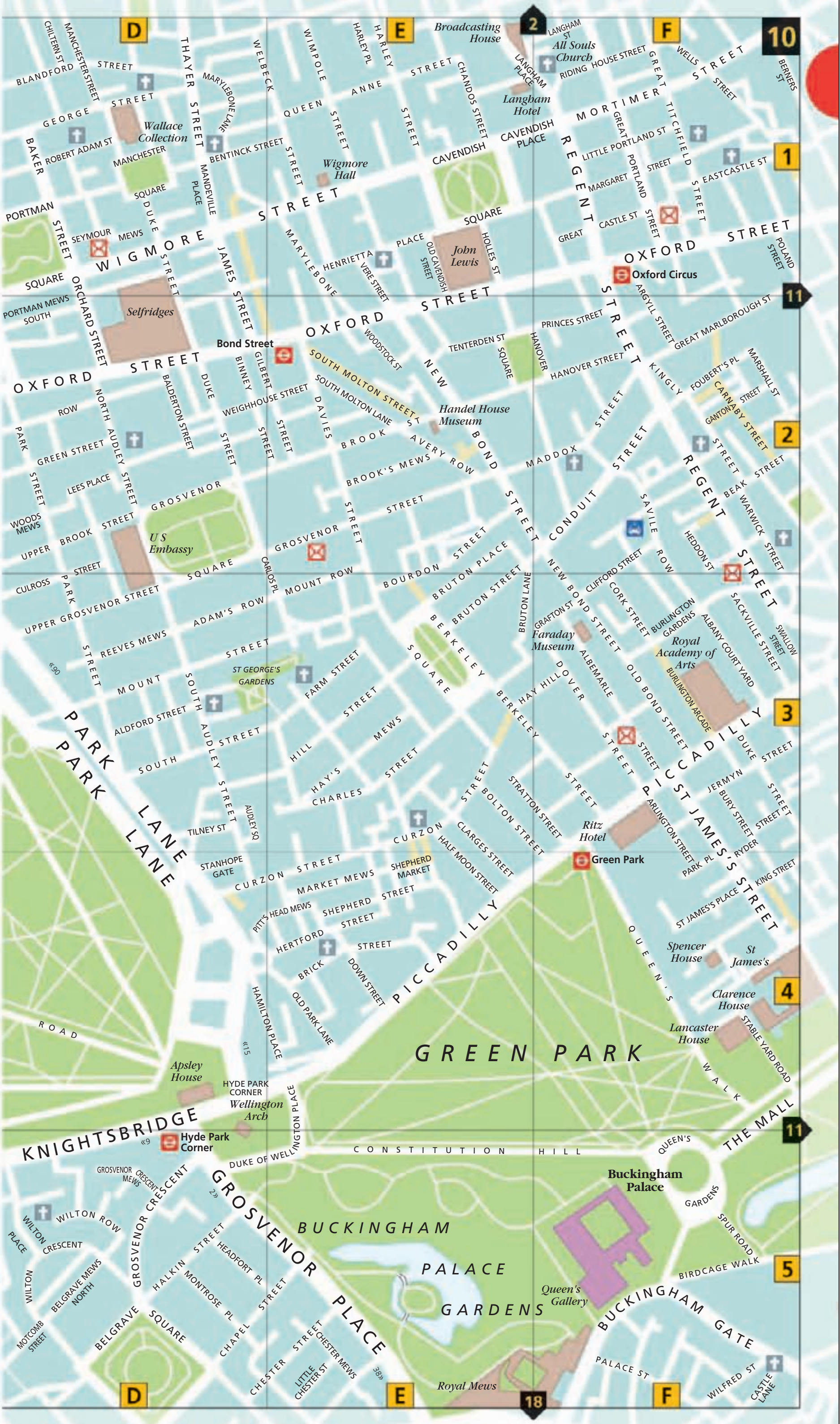

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Broadcasting House
Langham St
All Souls Church
Langham Place
Langham Hotel
Cavendish Place
Riding House Street
Wells Street
Berners St
Great Titchfield Street
Mortimer Street
Great Portland Street
Little Portland St
Eastcastle St
Margaret Street
Great Castle St
Oxford Street
Oxford Circus
Poland Street
Regent Street
Argyll Street
Great Marlborough St
Princes Street
Hanover Square
Hanover Street
Tenterden St
Kingly Street
Foubert's Pl
Marshall St
Carnaby Street
Ganton Street
Beak Street
Warwick Street
Maddox Street
Conduit Street
Savile Row
Heddon St
New Burlington Street
Clifford Street
Cork Street
Burlington Gardens
Albany Court Yard
Sackville Street
Swallow Street
Royal Academy of Arts
Burlington Arcade
Old Bond Street
New Bond Street
Grafton St
Faraday Museum
Albemarle Street
Dover Street
Hay Hill
Bruton Lane
Bruton Street
Bruton Place
Bourdon Street
Berkeley Square
Berkeley Street
Stratton Street
Bolton Street
Clarges Street
Half Moon Street
Piccadilly
Ritz Hotel
Green Park
Arlington Street
Park Pl
St James's Street
St James's Place
King Street
Ryder Street
Bury Street
Jermyn Street
Duke Street
Spencer House
St James's
Clarence House
Lancaster House
Stable Yard Road
Queen's Walk
GREEN PARK
The Mall
Constitution Hill
Queen's Gardens
Spur Road
Birdcage Walk
Buckingham Palace
Buckingham Gate
Palace St
Wilfred St
Castle Lane
Queen's Gallery
Royal Mews
BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS
Grosvenor Place
Chester Street
Chester Mews
Little Chester St
Chapel Street
Headfort Pl
Montrose Pl
Halkin Street
Belgrave Square
Belgrave Mews North
Motcomb Street
Wilton Place
Wilton Crescent
Wilton Row
Grosvenor Crescent
Grosvenor Crescent Mews
Duke of Wellington Place
Hyde Park Corner
Knightsbridge
Wellington Arch
Hyde Park Corner
Apsley House
Road
Hamilton Place
Old Park Lane
Brick Street
Down Street
Hertford Street
Shepherd Street
Shepherd Market
Pitt's Head Mews
Market Mews
Curzon Street
Stanhope Gate
Tilney St
Audley Sq
South Audley Street
South Street
Aldford Street
Mount Street
Park Lane
Charles Street
Hay's Mews
Hill Street
Farm Street
St George's Gardens
Reeves Mews
Upper Grosvenor Street
Culross Street
Park Street
Upper Brook Street
Woods Mews
Adam's Row
Mount Row
Carlos Pl
Grosvenor Square
US Embassy
Grosvenor Street
Lees Place
Green Street
North Audley Street
Park Street
Balderton Street
Duke Street
Binney Street
Gilbert Street
Weighhouse Street
Davies Street
Brook Street
South Molton Lane
South Molton Street
Brook's Mews
Avery Row
Handel House Museum
New Bond Street
Woodstock St
Oxford Street
Bond Street
Selfridges
Orchard Street
Portman Mews South
Portman Square
Portman Street
Seymour Mews
Wigmore Street
James Street
Marylebone Lane
Henrietta Place
Vere Street
Old Cavendish Street
John Lewis
Holles St
Cavendish Square
Wigmore Hall
Welbeck Street
Wimpole Street
Queen Anne Street
Harley Street
Harley Pl
Chandos Street
Mandeville Place
Bentinck Street
Marylebone Lane
Thayer Street
Manchester Square
Wallace Collection
Duke Street
Robert Adam St
George Street
Baker Street
Blandford Street
Manchester Street
Chiltern St
«90
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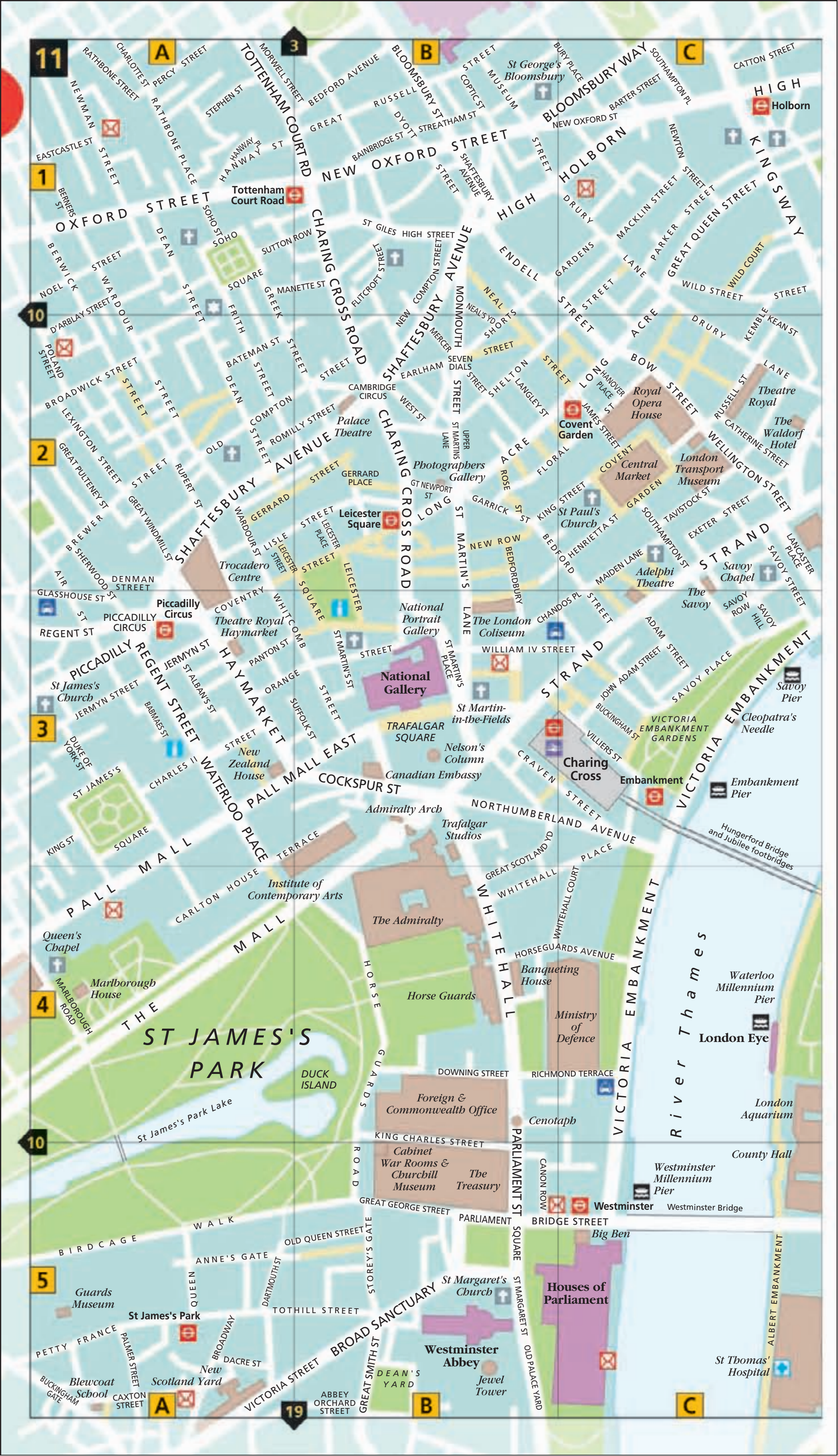
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A
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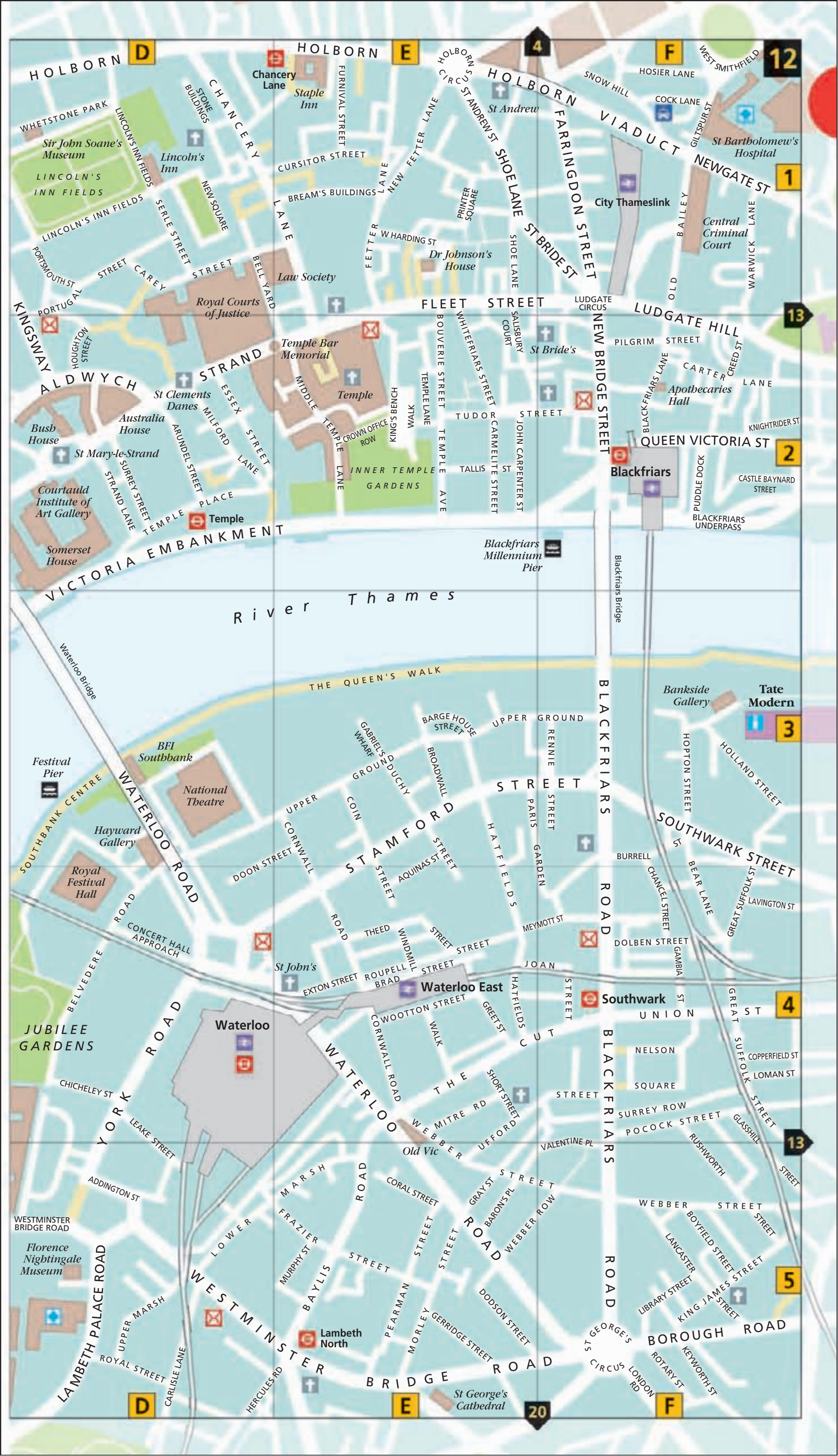
Rathbone Street
Charlotte St
Percy Street
Newman Street
Eastcastle St
Rathbone Place
Stephen St
Hanway Pl
Hanway St
Tottenham Court Rd
Morwell Street
Bedford Avenue
Great Russell Street
Bloomsbury St
Dyott Street
Streatham St
Bainbridge St
Copti St
Museum Street
St George's Bloomsbury
Bury Place
Bloomsbury Way
Southampton Pl
Barter Street
New Oxford St
Catton Street
High Holborn
Holborn
Kingsway
New Oxford Street
Shaftesbury Avenue
Drury Lane
Newton Street
Macklin Street
Parker Street
Great Queen Street
Wild Court
Wild Street
Berners St
Oxford Street
Tottenham Court Road
Soho St
Soho Square
Dean Street
Berwick Street
Noel Street
Wardour Street
Sutton Row
Charing Cross Road
St Giles High Street
Flitcroft Street
Manette St
Greek Street
Frith Street
D'Arblay Street
Poland Street
Broadwick Street
Bateman St
Compton Street
New Compton Street
Monmouth Street
Endell Street
Neal Street
Neal's Yd
Shorts Gardens
Mercer Street
Earlham Street
Seven Dials
Long Acre
Kean St
Kemble Street
Bow Street
Russell St
Theatre Royal
The Waldorf Hotel
Catherine Street
Wellington Street
Lexington Street
Great Pulteney St
Old Compton Street
Romilly Street
Cambridge Circus
Palace Theatre
West St
Shelton Street
Langley St
Hanover Place
Long Acre
Royal Opera House
James Street
Covent Garden
Upper St Martin's Lane
Photographers Gallery
Floral Street
Rose St
Central Market
London Transport Museum
Tavistock St
Exeter Street
Strand
Lancaster Place
Savoy Street
Rupert St
Great Windmill St
Brewer Street
Sherwood St
Air St
Denman Street
Gerrard Street
Gerrard Place
Gt Newport St
Leicester Square
Garrick St
King Street
St Paul's Church
Henrietta St
Bedford Street
Southampton St
Maiden Lane
Adelphi Theatre
Savoy Chapel
The Savoy
Savoy Row
Savoy Hill
Wardour St
Lisle Street
Leicester Street
Leicester Place
Trocadero Centre
Coventry Street
New Row
Bedfordbury
Glasshouse St
Regent St
Piccadilly Circus
Piccadilly
Theatre Royal Haymarket
Whitcomb Street
St Martin's Street
National Portrait Gallery
The London Coliseum
Chandos Pl
William IV Street
Adam Street
John Adam Street
Savoy Place
Savoy Pier
Embankment
Regent Street
Jermyn St
St Alban's St
Panton St
Orange Street
St Martin's Place
National Gallery
St Martin-in-the-Fields
Buckingham St
Villiers St
Victoria Embankment Gardens
Cleopatra's Needle
St James's Church
Jermyn Street
Babmaes St
Haymarket
Suffolk St
Trafalgar Square
Charing Cross
Duke of York St
St James's Square
Charles II Street
New Zealand House
Pall Mall East
Cockspur St
Nelson's Column
Canadian Embassy
Craven Street
Embankment Pier
Victoria Embankment
Waterloo Place
Admiralty Arch
Northumberland Avenue
Trafalgar Studios
Hungerford Bridge and Jubilee footbridges
King St
Pall Mall
Terrace
Carlton House
Institute of Contemporary Arts
Great Scotland Yd
Whitehall Place
Whitehall
Whitehall Court
The Admiralty
The Mall
Queen's Chapel
Marlborough House
Marlborough Road
Horse Guards Road
Horse Guards
Horseguards Avenue
Banqueting House
Ministry of Defence
River Thames
Waterloo Millennium Pier
London Eye
St James's Park
Duck Island
St James's Park Lake
Downing Street
Richmond Terrace
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Cenotaph
London Aquarium
King Charles Street
Cabinet War Rooms & Churchill Museum
The Treasury
Parliament St
Canon Row
County Hall
Westminster Millennium Pier
Westminster
Westminster Bridge
Great George Street
Parliament Square
Bridge Street
Big Ben
Birdcage Walk
Old Queen Street
Anne's Gate
Storey's Gate
Houses of Parliament
Albert Embankment
Guards Museum
Queen Anne's Gate
Dartmouth St
Tothill Street
St Margaret's Church
St Margaret St
St James's Park
Petty France
Palmer Street
Broadway
Dacre St
Broad Sanctuary
Westminster Abbey
Old Palace Yard
St Thomas' Hospital
New Scotland Yard
Blewcoat School
Buckingham Gate
Caxton Street
Victoria Street
Abbey Orchard Street
Great Smith St
Dean's Yard
Jewel Tower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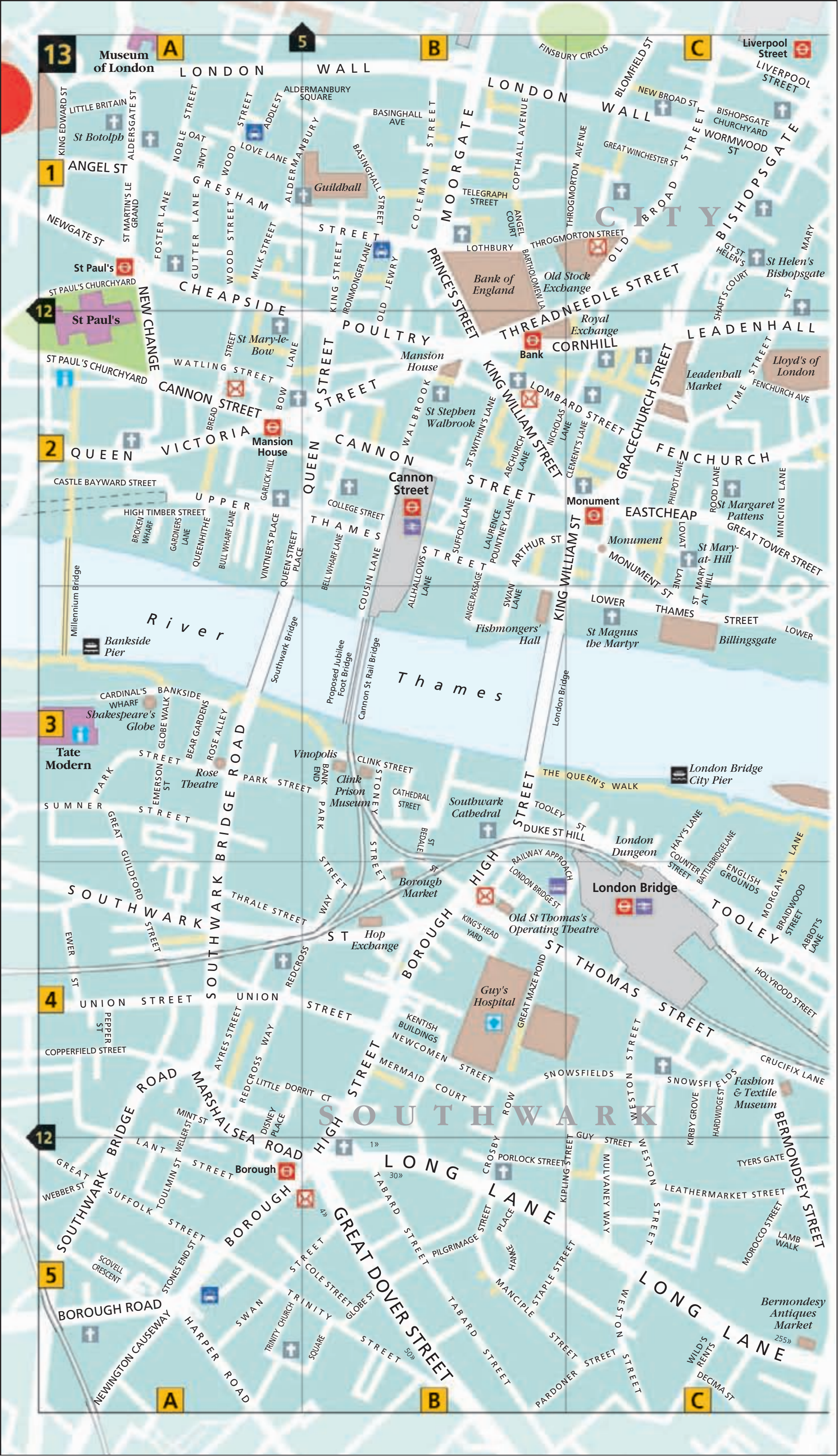
HOLBORN
Chancery Lane
Staple Inn
FURNIVAL STREET
HOLBORN CIRCUS
St Andrew
HOLBORN VIADUCT
SNOW HILL
HOSIER LANE
WEST SMITHFIELD
COCK LANE
GILTSPUR ST
St Bartholomew's Hospital
NEWGATE ST
WHETSTONE PARK
STONE BUILDINGS
CHANCERY LANE
Sir John Soane's Museum
LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS
Lincoln's Inn
CURSITOR STREET
FETTER LANE
NEW FETTER LANE
ST ANDREW ST
SHOE LANE
FARRINGDON STREET
City Thameslink
BREAM'S BUILDINGS
NEW SQUARE
SERLE STREET
PRINTER SQUARE
W HARDING ST
ST BRIDE ST
BAILEY
Central Criminal Court
WARWICK LANE
OLD
PORTSMOUTH ST
CAREY STREET
BELL YARD
Law Society
Dr Johnson's House
LUDGATE CIRCUS
LUDGATE HILL
KINGSWAY
PORTUGAL STREET
Royal Courts of Justice
FLEET STREET
SALISBURY COURT
St Bride's
PILGRIM STREET
CREED ST
HOUGHTON STREET
Temple Bar Memorial
BOUVERIE STREET
WHITEFRIARS STREET
NEW BRIDGE STREET
CARTER LANE
ALDWYCH
STRAND
Temple
Apothecaries Hall
BLACKFRIARS LANE
St Clements Danes
ESSEX STREET
MIDDLE TEMPLE LANE
KING'S BENCH WALK
TEMPLE LANE
TUDOR STREET
KNIGHTRIDER ST
Australia House
MILFORD LANE
CROWN OFFICE ROW
QUEEN VICTORIA ST
Bush House
ARUNDEL STREET
TEMPLE AVE
CARMELITE STREET
JOHN CARPENTER ST
Blackfriars
St Mary-le-Strand
INNER TEMPLE GARDENS
TALLIS ST
PUDDLE DOCK
CASTLE BAYNARD STREET
Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery
STRAND LANE
SURREY STREET
TEMPLE PLACE
Temple
BLACKFRIARS UNDERPASS
Somerset House
VICTORIA EMBANKMENT
Blackfriars Millennium Pier
River Thames
Blackfriars Bridge
Waterloo Bridge
THE QUEEN'S WALK
Bankside Gallery
Tate Modern
BARGE HOUSE STREET
UPPER GROUND
GABRIEL'S WHARF
BROADWALL
RENNIE STREET
HOPTON STREET
HOLLAND STREET
BFI Southbank
Festival Pier
National Theatre
DUCHY
UPPER GROUND
STAMFORD STREET
PARIS GARDEN
BLACKFRIARS ROAD
SOUTHBANK CENTRE
WATERLOO ROAD
COIN
UPPER
CORNWALL
HATFIELDS
SOUTHWARK STREET
Hayward Gallery
DOON STREET
AQUINAS ST
BURRELL ST
BEAR LANE
Royal Festival Hall
CHANCEL STREET
GREAT SUFFOLK ST
LAVINGTON ST
ROAD
CONCERT HALL APPROACH
THEED STREET
WINDMILL
MEYMOTT ST
DOLBEN STREET
BELVEDERE ROAD
St John's
ROUPELL STREET
BRAD
JOAN STREET
GAMBIA ST
EXTON STREET
Waterloo East
Southwark
WOOTTON STREET
GREET ST
HATFIELDS
UNION ST
JUBILEE GARDENS
Waterloo
WALK
CUT
THE
NELSON SQUARE
COPPERFIELD ST
YORK ROAD
WATERLOO
CORNWALL ROAD
SHORT STREET
LOMAN ST
GREAT SUFFOLK STREET
CHICHELEY ST
MITRE RD
WEBBER
UFFORD
SURREY ROW
POCOCK STREET
GLASSHILL STREET
LEAKE STREET
Old Vic
VALENTINE PL
ADDINGTON ST
MARSH ROAD
CORAL STREET
GRAY ST
STREET
RUSHWORTH STREET
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD
FRAZIER
BARON'S PL
WEBBER ROW
WEBBER STREET
BOYFIELD STREET
Florence Nightingale Museum
LOWER
MURPHY ST
STREET
STREET
ROAD
LANCASTER STREET
KING JAMES STREET
LIBRARY STREET
LAMBETH PALACE ROAD
UPPER MARSH
WESTMINSTER
BAYLIS
PEARMAN
DODSON STREET
ROAD
BOROUGH ROAD
MORLEY
GERRIDGE STREET
ST GEORGE'S CIRCUS
Lambeth North
ROYAL STREET
CARLISLE LANE
HERCULES RD
BRIDGE ROAD
St George's Cathedral
LONDON RD
ROTARY ST
KEYWORTH ST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Museum of London
LONDON WALL
ALDERMANBURY SQUARE
FINSBURY CIRCUS
BLOMFIELD ST
Liverpool Street
LIVERPOOL STREET
KING EDWARD ST
LITTLE BRITAIN
ALDERSGATE ST
St Botolph
NOBLE STREET
OAT LANE
WOOD STREET
ADDLE ST
LOVE LANE
ALDERMANBURY
BASINGHALL AVE
COLEMAN STREET
MOORGATE
COPTHALL AVENUE
NEW BROAD ST
BISHOPSGATE CHURCHYARD
WORMWOOD ST
GREAT WINCHESTER ST
THROGMORTON AVENUE
OLD BROAD STREET
BISHOPSGATE
ANGEL ST
ST MARTIN'S LE GRAND
FOSTER LANE
GUTTER LANE
GRESHAM
Guildhall
BASINGHALL STREET
TELEGRAPH STREET
ANGEL COURT
CITY
NEWGATE ST
WOOD STREET
MILK STREET
STREET
KING STREET
IRONMONGER LANE
OLD JEWRY
LOTHBURY
PRINCE'S STREET
Bank of England
BARTHOLOMEW LA
THROGMORTON STREET
Old Stock Exchange
GT ST HELEN'S
St Helen's Bishopsgate
ST MARY AXE
SHAFTS COURT
St Paul's
ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD
CHEAPSIDE
NEW CHANGE
St Paul's
THREADNEEDLE STREET
St Mary-le-Bow
BOW LANE
POULTRY
Royal Exchange
LEADENHALL
ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD
WATLING STREET
QUEEN STREET
Mansion House
Bank
CORNHILL
Leadenhall Market
Lloyd's of London
LIME STREET
FENCHURCH AVE
CANNON STREET
BREAD STREET
BOW
STREET
WALBROOK
St Stephen Walbrook
KING WILLIAM STREET
LOMBARD STREET
GRACECHURCH STREET
QUEEN VICTORIA
Mansion House
CANNON
ST SWITHIN'S LANE
ABCHURCH LANE
NICHOLAS LANE
CLEMENT'S LANE
FENCHURCH
CASTLE BAYWARD STREET
GARLICK HILL
QUEEN
Cannon Street
STREET
Monument
PHILPOT LANE
ROOD LANE
St Margaret Pattens
MINCING LANE
UPPER THAMES STREET
HIGH TIMBER STREET
COLLEGE STREET
EASTCHEAP
BROKEN WHARF
GARDNERS LANE
QUEENHITHE
BULL WHARF LANE
VINTNER'S PLACE
QUEEN STREET PLACE
BELL WHARF LANE
COUSIN LANE
ALLHALLOWS LANE
SUFFOLK LANE
LAURENCE POUNTNEY LANE
ARTHUR ST
KING WILLIAM ST
Monument
LOVAT LANE
St Mary-at-Hill
GREAT TOWER STREET
MONUMENT ST
ST MARY AT HILL
ANGEL PASSAGE
SWAN LANE
LOWER THAMES STREET
Millennium Bridge
River Thames
Bankside Pier
Fishmongers' Hall
St Magnus the Martyr
Billingsgate
LOWER
Southwark Bridge
Proposed Jubilee Foot Bridge
Cannon St Rail Bridge
London Bridge
CARDINAL'S WHARF
BANKSIDE
Shakespeare's Globe
GLOBE WALK
BEAR GARDENS
ROSE ALLEY
Tate Modern
Vinopolis
BANK END
CLINK STREET
London Bridge City Pier
THE QUEEN'S WALK
PARK STREET
Rose Theatre
EMERSON ST
PARK STREET
Clink Prison Museum
STONEY STREET
CATHEDRAL STREET
Southwark Cathedral
TOOLEY ST
SUMNER STREET
PARK
DUKE ST HILL
London Dungeon
HAY'S LANE
BATTLEBRIDGE LANE
MORGAN'S LANE
GREAT GUILDFORD STREET
SOUTHWARK BRIDGE ROAD
BEDALE ST
RAILWAY APPROACH
COUNTER STREET
ENGLISH GROUNDS
Borough Market
LONDON BRIDGE ST
London Bridge
BRAIDWOOD STREET
ABBOTS LANE
TOOLEY
SOUTHWARK STREET
THRALE STREET
WAY
HIGH
Old St Thomas's Operating Theatre
ST THOMAS STREET
EWER ST
Hop Exchange
KING'S HEAD YARD
BOROUGH
REDCROSS
HOLYROOD STREET
UNION STREET
UNION STREET
Guy's Hospital
GREAT MAZE POND
PEPPER ST
KENTISH BUILDINGS
NEWCOMEN STREET
COPPERFIELD STREET
AYRES STREET
REDCROSS WAY
MERMAID COURT
SNOWSFIELDS
WESTON STREET
SNOWSFIELDS
CRUCIFIX LANE
Fashion & Textile Museum
ROAD
MARSHALSEA ROAD
LITTLE DORRIT CT
STREET
ROW
SOUTHWARK
MINT ST
WELLER ST
DISNEY PLACE
HIGH
KIRBY GROVE
HARDWIDGE ST
BERMONDSEY STREET
BRIDGE
LANT STREET
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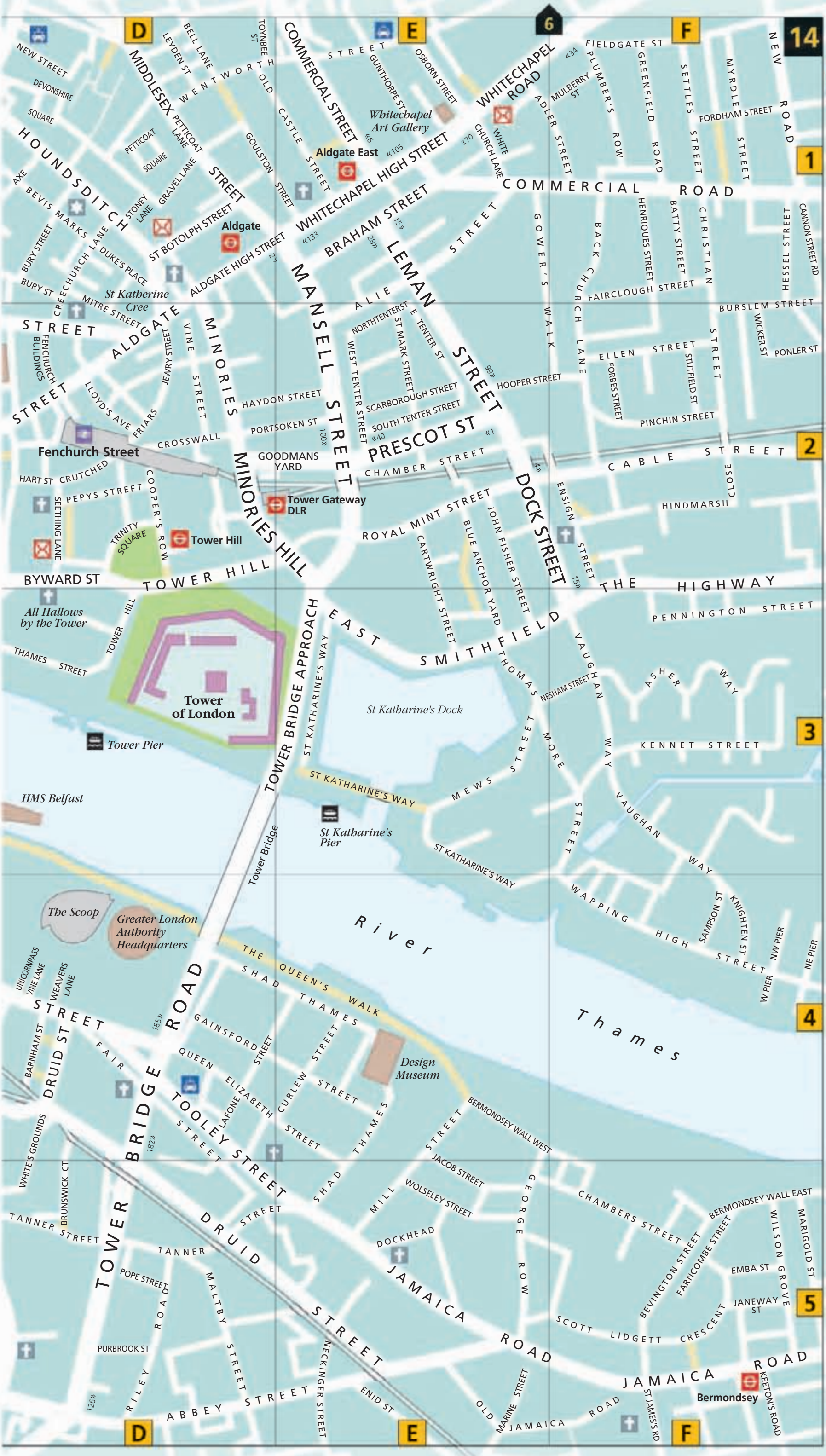
LONG
GUY STREET
PORLOCK STREET
KIPLING STREET
MULVANEY WAY
WESTON STREET
TYERS GATE
GREAT SUFFOLK STREET
WEBBER ST
TOULMIN ST
Borough
30»
TABARD STREET
CROSBY ROW
LANE
LEATHERMARKET STREET
SOUTHWARK
BOROUGH
47»
GREAT DOVER STREET
PILGRIMAGE STREET
PLACE
MOROCCO STREET
LAMB WALK
SCOVELL CRESCENT
STONES END ST
HAWKE
COLE STREET
MANCIPLE STREET
STAPLE STREET
LONG LANE
Bermondsey Antiques Market
BOROUGH ROAD
TRINITY CHURCH SQUARE
TRINITY STREET
GLOBE ST
SWAN
HARPER ROAD
STREET
50»
TABARD STREET
STREET
PARDONER STREET
WESTON STREET
255»
WILD'S RENTS
DECIMA ST
NEWINGTON CAUSEWAY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NEW STREET
DEVONSHIRE SQUARE
HOUNDSDITCH
MIDDLESEX STREET
BELL LANE
LEYDEN ST
TOYNBEE ST
WENTWORTH STREET
OLD CASTLE STREET
COMMERCIAL STREET
GUNTHORPE ST
OSBORN STREET
Whitechapel Art Gallery
WHITECHAPEL ROAD
FIELDGATE ST
PLUMBER'S ROW
MULBERRY ST
GREENFIELD ROAD
SETTLES STREET
MYRDLE STREET
FORDHAM STREET
NEW ROAD
PETTICOAT SQUARE
PETTICOAT LANE
GOULSTON STREET
Aldgate East
WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET
WHITE CHURCH LANE
ADLER STREET
COMMERCIAL ROAD
AXE
BEVIS MARKS
STONEY LANE
GRAVEL LANE
ST BOTOLPH STREET
Aldgate
ALDGATE HIGH STREET
BRAHAM STREET
LEMAN STREET
GOWER'S WALK
BACK CHURCH LANE
HENRIQUES STREET
BATTY STREET
CHRISTIAN STREET
HESSEL STREET
CANNON STREET RD
BURY STREET
BURY ST
CREECHURCH LANE
DUKE'S PLACE
St Katherine Cree
MITRE STREET
ALDGATE
MANSELL STREET
ALIE STREET
FAIRCLOUGH STREET
BURSLEM STREET
WICKER ST
PONLER ST
STREET
FENCHURCH BUILDINGS
FENCHURCH STREET
JEWRY STREET
VINE STREET
MINORIES
NORTHTENTER ST
E TENTER ST
ST MARK STREET
WEST TENTER STREET
ELLEN STREET
FORBES STREET
STUTFIELD ST
HOOPER STREET
LLOYD'S AVE
FRIARS
HAYDON STREET
SCARBOROUGH STREET
SOUTH TENTER STREET
PINCHIN STREET
Fenchurch Street
CROSSWALL
PORTSOKEN ST
PRESCOT ST
GOODMANS YARD
CHAMBER STREET
CABLE STREET
HART ST
CRUTCHED
PEPYS STREET
MINORIES HILL
DOCK STREET
ENSIGN STREET
HINDMARSH CLOSE
SEETHING LANE
COOPER'S ROW
Tower Gateway DLR
ROYAL MINT STREET
TRINITY SQUARE
Tower Hill
CARTWRIGHT STREET
BLUE ANCHOR YARD
JOHN FISHER STREET
BYWARD ST
TOWER HILL
THE HIGHWAY
All Hallows by the Tower
TOWER HILL
EAST SMITHFIELD
PENNINGTON STREET
THAMES STREET
TOWER BRIDGE APPROACH
ST KATHARINE'S WAY
THOMAS MORE STREET
NESHAM STREET
VAUGHAN WAY
ASHER WAY
Tower of London
St Katharine's Dock
KENNET STREET
Tower Pier
ST KATHARINE'S WAY
MEWS STREET
HMS Belfast
St Katharine's Pier
Tower Bridge
ST KATHARINE'S WAY
WAPPING HIGH STREET
SAMPSON ST
KNIGHTEN ST
NW PIER
NE PIER
W PIER
The Scoop
Greater London Authority Headquarters
River Thames
THE QUEEN'S WALK
UNICORNPASS
VINE LANE
WEAVERS LANE
STREET
SHAD THAMES
GAINSFORD STREET
FAIR
QUEEN ELIZABETH STREET
Design Museum
BARNHAM ST
DRUID ST
TOWER BRIDGE ROAD
TOOLEY STREET
LAFONE STREET
CURLEW STREET
BERMONDSEY WALL WEST
WHITE'S GROUNDS
BRUNSWICK CT
JACOB STREET
WOLSELEY STREET
MILL STREET
SHAD THAMES
GEORGE ROW
CHAMBERS STREET
BERMONDSEY WALL EAST
WILSON GROVE
MARIGOLD ST
TANNER STREET
DRUID STREET
DOCKHEAD
BEVINGTON STREET
FARNCOMBE STREET
EMBA ST
JANEWAY ST
TANNER STREET
POPE STREET
ROAD
MALTBY STREET
JAMAICA ROAD
SCOTT LIDGETT CRESCENT
PURBROOK ST
RILEY ROAD
NECKINGER STREET
ENID ST
MARINE STREET
OLD JAMAICA ROAD
JAMAICA ROAD
ST JAMES'S RD
Bermondsey
KEETON'S ROAD
ABBEY STREET
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99»
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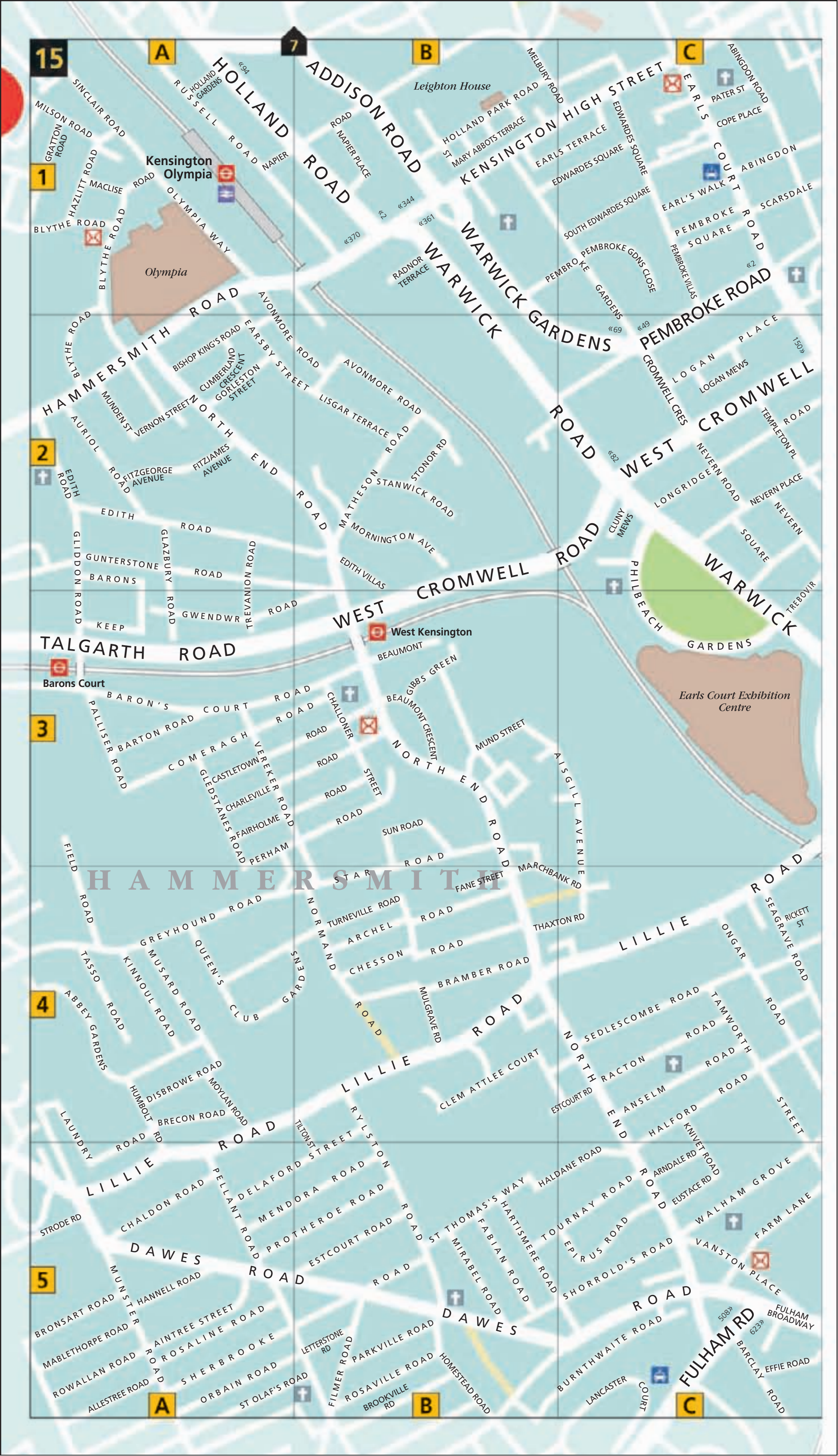
182»
126»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SINCLAIR ROAD
MILSON ROAD
GRATTON ROAD
HOLLAND GARDENS
RUSSELL ROAD
HOLLAND ROAD
«94
ADDISON ROAD
Leighton House
MELBURY ROAD
HOLLAND PARK ROAD
ST MARY ABBOTS TERRACE
ABINGDON ROAD
PATER ST
EARLS COURT ROAD
COPE PLACE
KENSINGTON HIGH STREET
EDWARDES SQUARE
EARLS TERRACE
NAPIER PLACE
NAPIER ROAD
Kensington Olympia
HAZLITT ROAD
MACLISE ROAD
OLYMPIA WAY
BLYTHE ROAD
Olympia
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«361
RADNOR TERRACE
WARWICK ROAD
WARWICK GARDENS
ABINGDON
SCARSDALE
EARL'S WALK
PEMBROKE SQUARE
SOUTH EDWARDES SQUARE
PEMBROKE GARDENS
PEMBROKE GDNS CLOSE
PEMBROKE VILLAS
PEMBROKE ROAD
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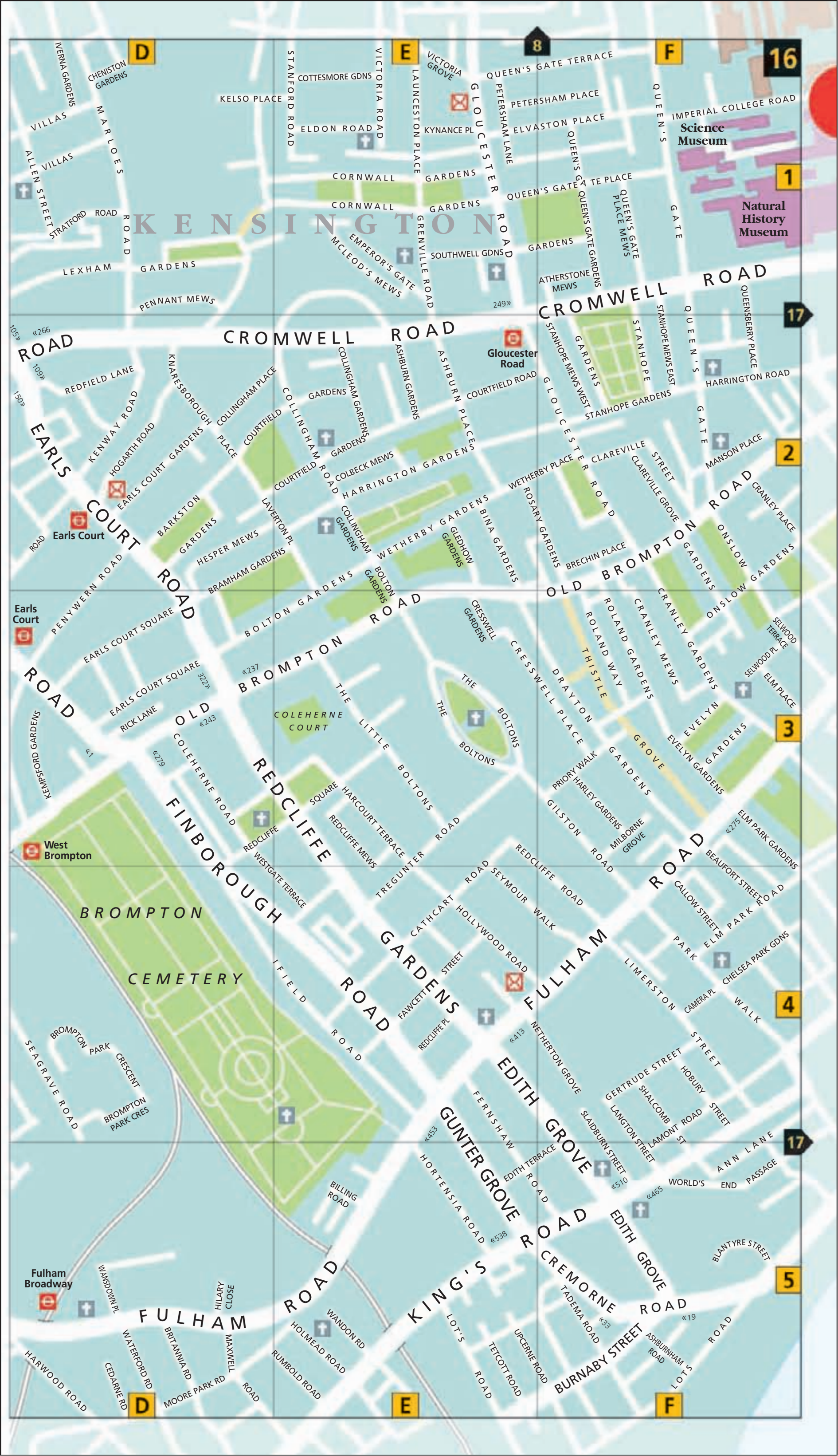
HAMMERSMITH ROAD
BLYTHE ROAD
AVONMORE ROAD
EARSBY STREET
BISHOP KING'S ROAD
CUMBERLAND CRESCENT
GORLESTON STREET
MUNDEN ST
VERNON STREET
NORTH END ROAD
AURIOL ROAD
LISGAR TERRACE
AVONMORE ROAD
LOGAN PLACE
LOGAN MEWS
CROMWELL CRES
150»
WEST CROMWELL ROAD
TEMPLETON PL
«82
NEVERN ROAD
LONGRIDGE ROAD
NEVERN PLACE
NEVERN SQUARE
FITZGEORGE AVENUE
FITZJAMES AVENUE
EDITH ROAD
EDITH ROAD
STONOR RD
STANWICK ROAD
MATHESON ROAD
MORNINGTON AVE
CLUNY MEWS
EDITH VILLAS
GLIDDON ROAD
GUNTERSTONE ROAD
GLAZBURY ROAD
BARONS KEEP
TREVANION ROAD
GWENDWR ROAD
PHILBEACH GARDENS
WARWICK ROAD
TREBOVIR ROAD
TALGARTH ROAD
West Kensington
Barons Court
BEAUMONT
GIBBS GREEN
BEAUMONT CRESCENT
Earls Court Exhibition Centre
BARON'S COURT ROAD
PALLISER ROAD
BARTON ROAD
CHALLONER STREET
COMERAGH ROAD
CASTLETOWN ROAD
VEREKER ROAD
CHARLEVILLE ROAD
GLEDSTANES ROAD
FAIRHOLME ROAD
PERHAM ROAD
MUND STREET
AISGILL AVENUE
SUN ROAD
STAR ROAD
FANE STREET
MARCHBANK RD
HAMMERSMITH
FIELD ROAD
GREYHOUND ROAD
NORMAND ROAD
TURNEVILLE ROAD
ARCHEL ROAD
CHESSON ROAD
THAXTON RD
LILLIE ROAD
RICKETT ST
SEAGRAVE ROAD
ONGAR ROAD
QUEEN'S CLUB GARDENS
TASSO ROAD
KINNOUL ROAD
MUSARD ROAD
BRAMBER ROAD
MULGRAVE RD
ABBEY GARDENS
SEDLESCOMBE ROAD
TAMWORTH STREET
RACTON ROAD
ANSELM ROAD
CLEM ATTLEE COURT
DISBROWE ROAD
HUMBOLT RD
MOYLAN ROAD
BRECON ROAD
LAUNDRY ROAD
ESTCOURT RD
NORTH END ROAD
HALFORD ROAD
KNIVET ROAD
TILTON ST
RYLSTON ROAD
DELAFORD STREET
LILLIE ROAD
ARNDALE RD
EUSTACE RD
HALDANE ROAD
CHALDON ROAD
PELLANT ROAD
MENDORA ROAD
PROTHEROE ROAD
STRODE RD
ST THOMAS'S WAY
HARTISMERE ROAD
FABIAN ROAD
TOURNAY ROAD
WALHAM GROVE
FARM LANE
EPIRUS ROAD
VANSTON PLACE
ESTCOURT ROAD
MIRABEL ROAD
DAWES ROAD
MUNSTER ROAD
HANNELL ROAD
SHORROLD'S ROAD
FULHAM BROADWAY
BRONSART ROAD
AINTREE STREET
ROSALINE ROAD
MABLETHORPE ROAD
SHERBROOKE ROAD
LETTERSTONE RD
PARKVILLE ROAD
BURNTHWAITE ROAD
508»
623»
FULHAM RD
BARCLAY ROAD
EFFIE ROAD
ROWALLAN ROAD
ORBAIN ROAD
ALLESTREE ROAD
ST OLAF'S ROAD
FILMER ROAD
ROSAVILLE ROAD
BROOKVILLE RD
HOMESTEAD ROAD
LANCASTER COURT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IVERNA GARDENS
CHENISTON GARDENS
VILLAS
VILLAS
ALLEN STREET
MARLOES ROAD
STRATFORD ROAD
KELSO PLACE
STANFORD ROAD
COTTESMORE GDNS
VICTORIA ROAD
ELDON ROAD
LAUNCESTON PLACE
VICTORIA GROVE
KYNANCE PL
GLOUCESTER ROAD
PETERSHAM LANE
QUEEN'S GATE TERRACE
PETERSHAM PLACE
ELVASTON PLACE
QUEEN'S GATE PLACE
QUEEN'S GATE
IMPERIAL COLLEGE ROAD
Science Museum
Natural History Museum
CORNWALL GARDENS
CORNWALL GARDENS
KENSINGTON
QUEEN'S GATE PLACE
QUEEN'S GATE GARDENS
QUEEN'S GATE PLACE MEWS
LEXHAM GARDENS
PENNANT MEWS
MCLEOD'S MEWS
EMPEROR'S GATE
GRENVILLE ROAD
SOUTHWELL GDNS
GARDENS
ATHERSTONE MEWS
249»
CROMWELL ROAD
CROMWELL ROAD
105»
«266
109»
150»
ROAD
REDFIELD LANE
KENWAY ROAD
HOGARTH ROAD
EARLS COURT GARDENS
KNARESBOROUGH PLACE
COLLINGHAM PLACE
COURTFIELD GARDENS
COLLINGHAM ROAD
GARDENS
COLLINGHAM GARDENS
ASHBURN GARDENS
ASHBURN PLACE
Gloucester Road
COURTFIELD ROAD
STANHOPE MEWS WEST
GARDENS
STANHOPE
STANHOPE MEWS EAST
STANHOPE GARDENS
QUEENSBERRY PLACE
HARRINGTON ROAD
GARDENS
COLBECK MEWS
COURTFIELD GARDENS
HARRINGTON GARDENS
EARLS COURT ROAD
Earls Court
ROAD
BARKSTON GARDENS
HESPER MEWS
LAVERTON PL
COLLINGHAM GARDENS
WETHERBY GARDENS
GLEDHOW GARDENS
BINA GARDENS
WETHERBY PLACE
ROSARY GARDENS
GLOUCESTER ROAD
CLAREVILLE STREET
CLAREVILLE GROVE
MANSON PLACE
CRANLEY PLACE
BRECHIN PLACE
OLD BROMPTON ROAD
ONSLOW GARDENS
ONSLOW GARDENS
BRAMHAM GARDENS
BOLTON GARDENS
BOLTON GARDENS
PENYWERN ROAD
Earls Court
EARLS COURT SQUARE
EARLS COURT SQUARE
322»
«237
BROMPTON ROAD
OLD
«243
RICK LANE
CRESSWELL GARDENS
CRESSWELL PLACE
THE BOLTONS
THE BOLTONS
DRAYTON GARDENS
THISTLE GROVE
ROLAND WAY
ROLAND GARDENS
CRANLEY MEWS
CRANLEY GARDENS
SELWOOD TERRACE
SELWOOD PL
ELM PLACE
EVELYN GARDENS
EVELYN GARDENS
ROAD
KEMPSFORD GARDENS
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«279
COLEHERNE ROAD
COLEHERNE COURT
THE LITTLE BOLTONS
REDCLIFFE SQUARE
REDCLIFFE
HARCOURT TERRACE
REDCLIFFE MEWS
PRIORY WALK
HARLEY GARDENS
MILBORNE GROVE
GILSTON ROAD
«275
ELM PARK GARDENS
West Brompton
FINBOROUGH ROAD
WESTGATE TERRACE
TREGUNTER ROAD
REDCLIFFE ROAD
SEYMOUR WALK
BEAUFORT STREET
CALLOW STREET
ELM PARK ROAD
BROMPTON CEMETERY
CATHCART ROAD
HOLLYWOOD ROAD
REDCLIFFE GARDENS
FULHAM ROAD
LIMERSTON STREET
PARK WALK
CHELSEA PARK GDNS
CAMERA PL
IFIELD ROAD
STREET
FAWCETT STREET
REDCLIFFE PL
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NETHERTON GROVE
EDITH GROVE
BROMPTON PARK CRESCENT
BROMPTON PARK CRES
SEAGRAVE ROAD
GERTRUDE STREET
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HOBURY STREET
LANGTON STREET
LAMONT ROAD
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GUNTER GROVE
FERNSHAW ROAD
HORTENSIA ROAD
EDITH TERRACE
ANN LANE
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BILLING ROAD
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CREMORNE ROAD
TADEMA ROAD
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ROAD
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LOTS
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WATERFORD RD
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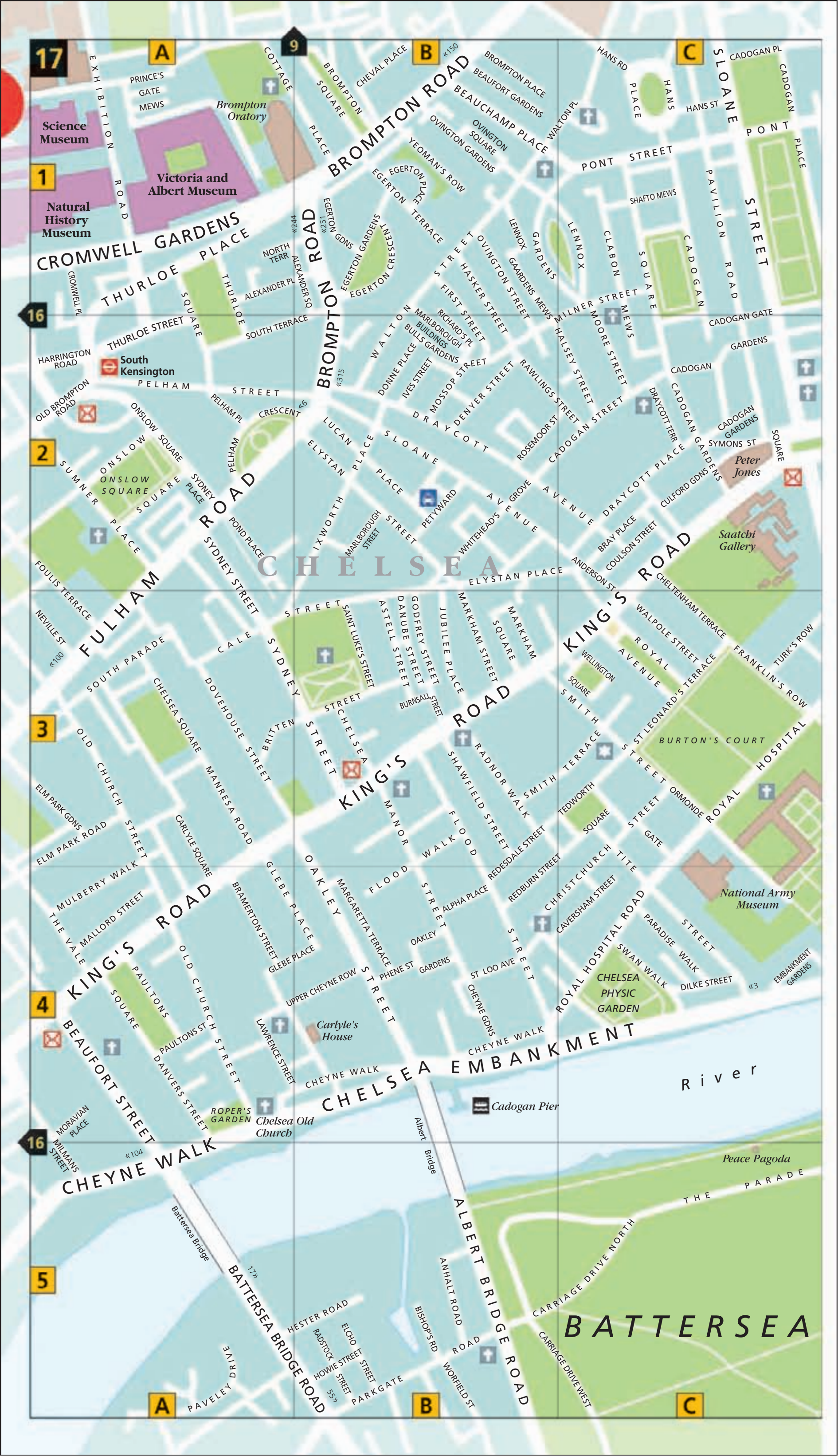
MAXWELL ROAD
MOORE PARK RD
RUMBOLD ROAD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Science Museum
Natural History Museum
Victoria and Albert Museum
Brompton Oratory
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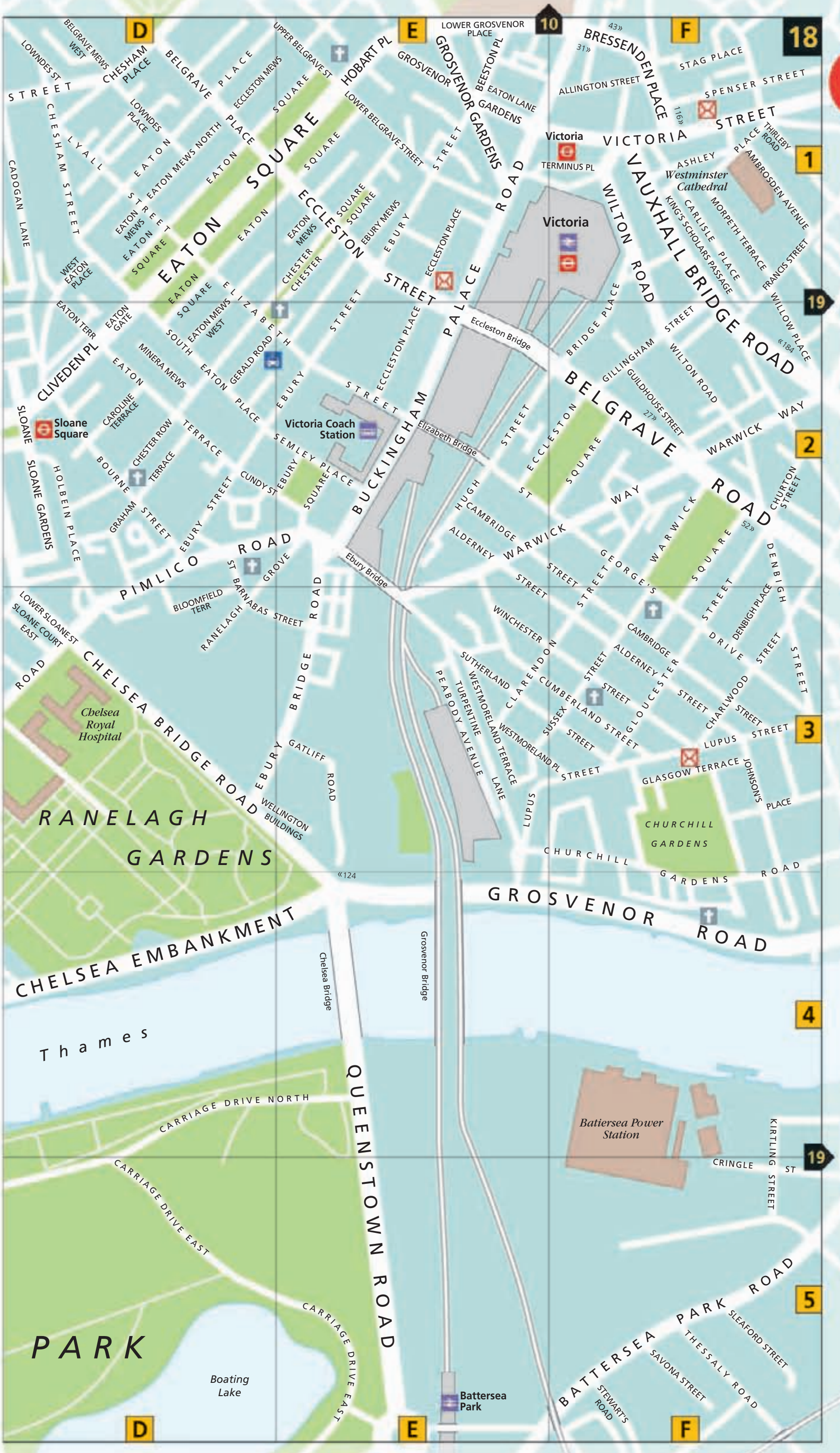
COTTAGE PLACE
BROMPTON SQUARE
CHEVAL PLACE
BROMPTON ROAD
BROMPTON PLACE
BEAUFORT GARDENS
BEAUCHAMP PLACE
OVINGTON SQUARE
OVINGTON GARDENS
YEOMAN'S ROW
EGERTON PLACE
EGERTON TERRACE
EGERTON GDNS
EGERTON GARDENS
EGERTON CRESCENT
WALTON PL
HANS RD
HANS PLACE
HANS ST
SLOANE STREET
CADOGAN PL
CADOGAN PONT PLACE
PONT STREET
SHAFTO MEWS
PAVILION ROAD
LENNOX GARDENS
LENNOX GARDENS MEWS
CLABON MEWS
CADOGAN SQUARE
CROMWELL GARDENS
CROMWELL PL
THURLOE PLACE
THURLOE SQUARE
THURLOE STREET
NORTH TERR
ALEXANDER PL
ALEXANDER SQ
SOUTH TERRACE
WALTON STREET
OVINGTON STREET
HASKER STREET
FIRST STREET
RICHARD'S PL
MARLBOROUGH BUILDINGS
BULLS GARDENS
MILNER STREET
MOORE STREET
HALSEY STREET
CADOGAN GATE
GARDENS
CADOGAN
HARRINGTON ROAD
South Kensington
PELHAM STREET
OLD BROMPTON ROAD
PELHAM PL
PELHAM CRESCENT
DONNE PLACE
IVES STREET
MOSSOP STREET
DENYER STREET
RAWLINGS STREET
ROSEMOOR ST
CADOGAN STREET
DRAYCOTT TERR
CADOGAN GARDENS
SYMONS ST
SLOANE SQUARE
Peter Jones
ONSLOW SQUARE
ONSLOW GARDENS
SUMNER PLACE
SYDNEY PLACE
FULHAM ROAD
LUCAN PLACE
ELYSTAN STREET
SLOANE AVENUE
DRAYCOTT AVENUE
DRAYCOTT PLACE
CULFORD GDNS
PETYWARD
WHITEHEAD'S GROVE
BRAY PLACE
COULSON STREET
Saatchi Gallery
IXWORTH PLACE
MARLBOROUGH STREET
POND PLACE
SYDNEY STREET
CHELSEA
ELYSTAN PLACE
ANDERSON ST
KING'S ROAD
CHELTENHAM TERRACE
FOULIS TERRACE
NEVILLE ST
CALE STREET
SAINT LUKE'S STREET
ASTELL STREET
DANUBE STREET
GODFREY STREET
JUBILEE PLACE
MARKHAM STREET
MARKHAM SQUARE
WALPOLE STREET
ROYAL AVENUE
WELLINGTON SQUARE
FRANKLIN'S ROW
TURK'S ROW
SOUTH PARADE
CHELSEA SQUARE
DOVEHOUSE STREET
BRITTEN STREET
CHELSEA MANOR STREET
BURNSALL STREET
SMITH STREET
ST LEONARD'S TERRACE
BURTON'S COURT
ROYAL HOSPITAL ROAD
OLD CHURCH STREET
ELM PARK GDNS
ELM PARK ROAD
CARLYLE SQUARE
MANRESA ROAD
MANOR STREET
RADNOR WALK
SHAWFIELD STREET
FLOOD STREET
FLOOD WALK
SMITH TERRACE
TEDWORTH SQUARE
ORMONDE GATE
MULBERRY WALK
MALLORD STREET
THE VALE
BRAMERTON STREET
GLEBE PLACE
OAKLEY STREET
MARGARETTA TERRACE
ALPHA PLACE
REDESDALE STREET
REDBURN STREET
CHRISTCHURCH STREET
CAVERSHAM STREET
TITE STREET
National Army Museum
PAULTONS SQUARE
PAULTONS ST
UPPER CHEYNE ROW
PHENE ST
OAKLEY GARDENS
ST LOO AVE
CHEYNE GDNS
PARADISE WALK
SWAN WALK
CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN
DILKE STREET
EMBANKMENT GARDENS
BEAUFORT STREET
DANVERS STREET
LAWRENCE STREET
Carlyle's House
CHEYNE WALK
CHELSEA EMBANKMENT
ROPER'S GARDEN
Chelsea Old Church
Cadogan Pier
River
MORAVIAN PLACE
MILMANS STREET
Albert Bridge
Peace Pagoda
THE PARADE
Battersea Bridge
BATTERSEA BRIDGE ROAD
ALBERT BRIDGE ROAD
ANHALT ROAD
CARRIAGE DRIVE NORTH
BATTERSEA
CARRIAGE DRIVE WEST
HESTER ROAD
RADSTOCK STREET
ELCHO STREET
HOWIE STREET
BISHOP'S RD
WORFIELD ST
PARKGATE ROAD
PAVELEY DRIVE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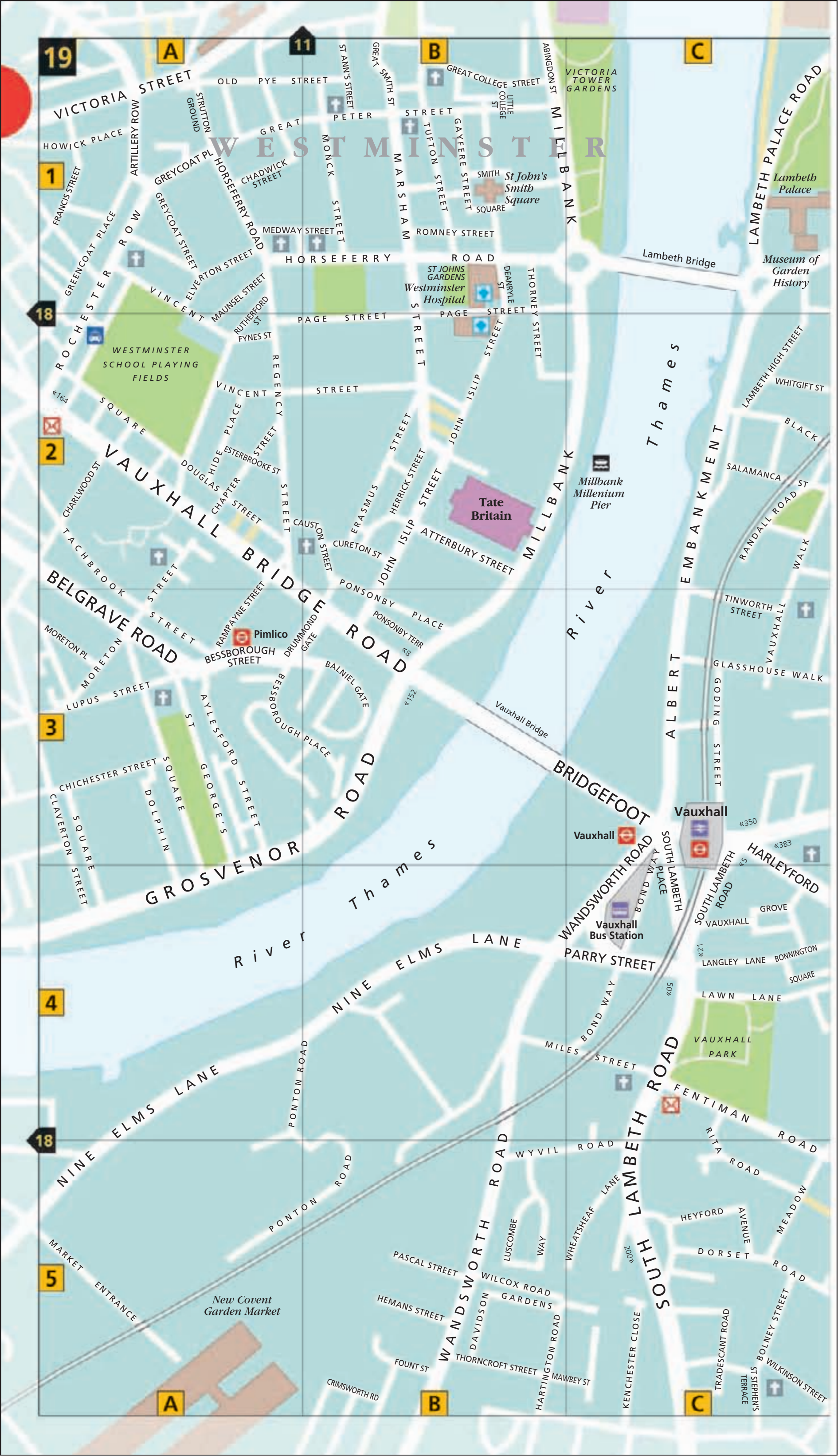
EATON SQUARE
BELGRAVE PLACE
CHESHAM PLACE
BELGRAVE MEWS WEST
LOWNDES ST
CHESHAM STREET
LYALL STREET
CADOGAN LANE
LOWNDES PLACE
EATON PLACE
EATON MEWS NORTH
EATON MEWS SOUTH
WEST EATON PLACE
ECCLESTON MEWS
UPPER BELGRAVE ST
HOBART PL
GROSVENOR PLACE
LOWER GROSVENOR PLACE
GROSVENOR GARDENS
BEESTON PL
EATON LANE
LOWER BELGRAVE STREET
ECCLESTON STREET
EATON MEWS WEST
CHESTER SQUARE
CHESTER SQUARE MEWS
EBURY MEWS
EBURY STREET
ECCLESTON PLACE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD
Victoria
TERMINUS PL
BRESSENDEN PLACE
ALLINGTON STREET
STAG PLACE
SPENSER STREET
VICTORIA STREET
THIRLEBY ROAD
ASHLEY PLACE
Westminster Cathedral
AMBROSDEN AVENUE
VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD
WILTON ROAD
CARLISLE PLACE
KING'S SCHOLARS PASSAGE
MORPETH TERRACE
FRANCIS STREET
WILLOW PLACE
BRIDGE PLACE
Eccleston Bridge
GILLINGHAM STREET
GUILDHOUSE STREET
BELGRAVE ROAD
WARWICK WAY
CHURTON STREET
ECCLESTON SQUARE
EATON TERR
EATON GATE
CLIVEDEN PL
ELIZABETH STREET
GERALD ROAD
MINERA MEWS
SOUTH EATON PLACE
Sloane Square
CAROLINE TERRACE
CHESTER ROW
BOURNE STREET
TERRACE
SLOANE GARDENS
HOLBEIN PLACE
GRAHAM TERRACE
EBURY STREET
CUNDY ST
SEMLEY PLACE
EBURY SQUARE
Victoria Coach Station
Elizabeth Bridge
HUGH STREET
CAMBRIDGE STREET
ALDERNEY STREET
WARWICK SQUARE
ST GEORGE'S DRIVE
DENBIGH STREET
DENBIGH PLACE
PIMLICO ROAD
Ebury Bridge
ST BARNABAS STREET
BLOOMFIELD TERR
RANELAGH GROVE
EBURY BRIDGE ROAD
LOWER SLOANE ST
SLOANE COURT EAST
CHELSEA BRIDGE ROAD
Chelsea Royal Hospital
WINCHESTER STREET
CLARENDON STREET
CUMBERLAND STREET
SUTHERLAND STREET
WESTMORELAND TERRACE
WESTMORELAND PL
PEABODY AVENUE
TURPENTINE LANE
SUSSEX STREET
GLOUCESTER STREET
CHARLWOOD STREET
LUPUS STREET
GLASGOW TERRACE
JOHNSON'S PLACE
CHURCHILL GARDENS
CHURCHILL GARDENS ROAD
GATLIFF ROAD
WELLINGTON BUILDINGS
RANELAGH GARDENS
GROSVENOR ROAD
CHELSEA EMBANKMENT
Chelsea Bridge
Grosvenor Bridge
Thames
QUEENSTOWN ROAD
CARRIAGE DRIVE NORTH
CARRIAGE DRIVE EAST
Battersea Power Station
CRINGLE ST
KIRTLING STREET
PARK
Boating Lake
Battersea Park
BATTERSEA PARK ROAD
SLEAFORD STREET
THESSALY ROAD
SAVONA STREET
STEWART'S ROAD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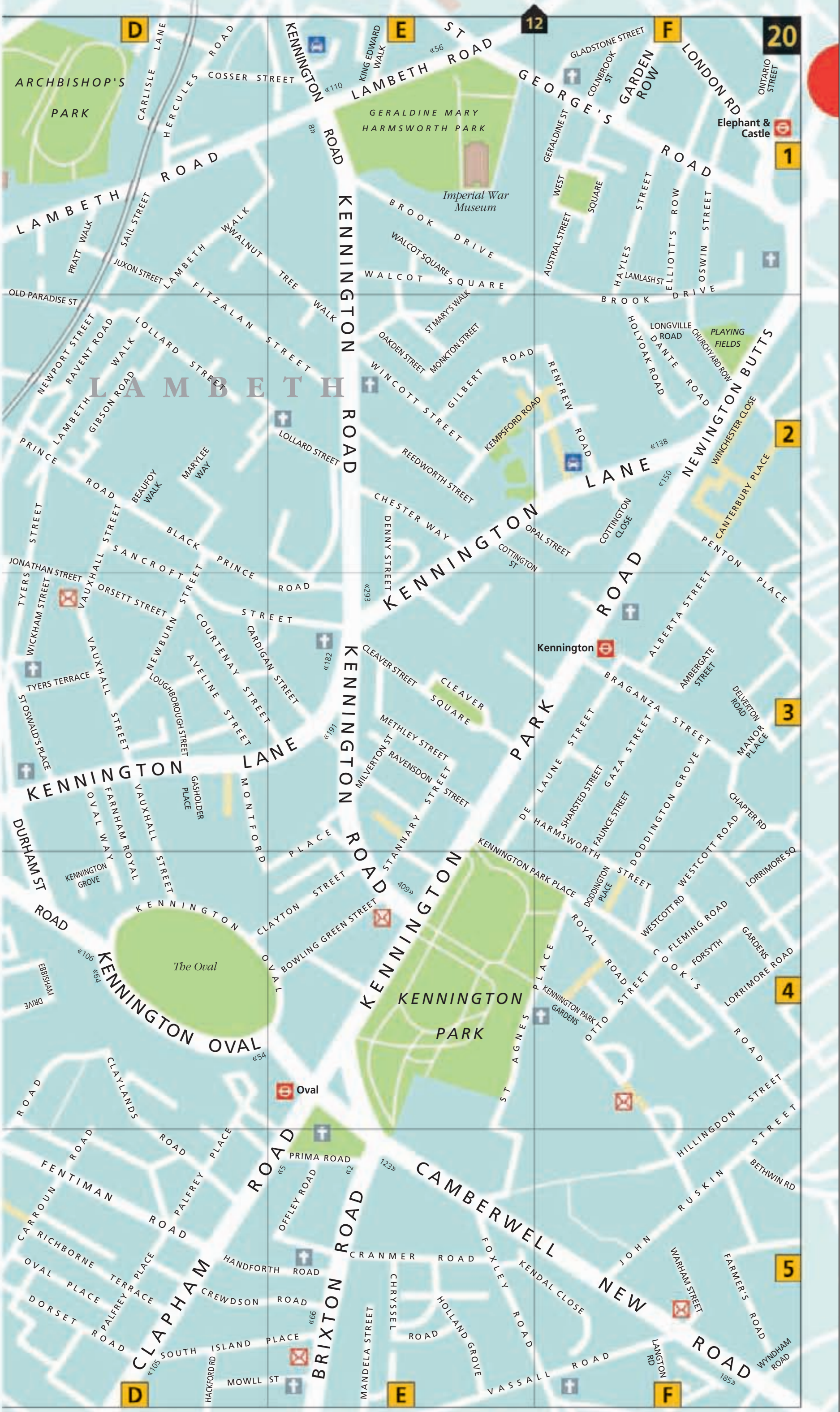
WESTMINSTER
VICTORIA STREET
OLD PYE STREET
HOWICK PLACE
ARTILLERY ROW
STRUTTON GROUND
ST ANN'S STREET
GREAT SMITH ST
GREAT COLLEGE STREET
LITTLE COLLEGE ST
ABINGDON ST
VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS
PETER STREET
GREAT PETER STREET
GREYCOAT PL
FRANCIS STREET
GREYCOAT STREET
HORSEFERRY ROAD
CHADWICK STREET
MONCK STREET
MARSHAM STREET
TUFTON STREET
GAYFERE STREET
SMITH SQUARE
St John's Smith Square
MILLBANK
LAMBETH PALACE ROAD
Lambeth Palace
Museum of Garden History
Lambeth Bridge
MEDWAY STREET
ROMNEY STREET
ROCHESTER ROW
GREENCOAT PLACE
ELVERTON STREET
VINCENT SQUARE
MAUNSEL STREET
RUTHERFORD ST
FYNES ST
ST JOHNS GARDENS
Westminster Hospital
DEANRYLE ST
THORNEY STREET
PAGE STREET
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS
VINCENT STREET
REGENCY STREET
JOHN ISLIP STREET
«164
VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD
HIDE PLACE
ESTERBROOKE ST
DOUGLAS STREET
CHAPTER STREET
CHARLWOOD ST
TACHBROOK STREET
ERASMUS STREET
HERRICK STREET
CAUSTON STREET
CURETON ST
Tate Britain
ATTERBURY STREET
Millbank Millenium Pier
River Thames
ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LAMBETH HIGH STREET
WHITGIFT ST
BLACK PRINCE ROAD
SALAMANCA ST
RANDALL ROAD
VAUXHALL WALK
TINWORTH STREET
GLASSHOUSE WALK
GODING STREET
BELGRAVE ROAD
MORETON PL
MORETON STREET
RAMPAYNE STREET
Pimlico
BESSBOROUGH STREET
DRUMMOND GATE
PONSONBY PLACE
PONSONBY TERR
«8
BALNIEL GATE
LUPUS STREET
AYLESFORD STREET
BESSBOROUGH PLACE
«152
Vauxhall Bridge
BRIDGEFOOT
ST GEORGE'S SQUARE
CHICHESTER STREET
DOLPHIN SQUARE
CLAVERTON STREET
GROSVENOR ROAD
Vauxhall
«350
«383
HARLEYFORD ROAD
WANDSWORTH ROAD
BOND WAY
SOUTH LAMBETH PLACE
SOUTH LAMBETH ROAD
«5
Vauxhall Bus Station
GROVE
VAUXHALL GROVE
NINE ELMS LANE
PARRY STREET
«21
LANGLEY LANE
BONNINGTON SQUARE
«50
LAWN LANE
VAUXHALL PARK
MILES STREET
FENTIMAN ROAD
PONTON ROAD
WYVIL ROAD
RITA ROAD
MEADOW ROAD
WANDSWORTH ROAD
LUSCOMBE WAY
WHEATSHEAF LANE
SOUTH LAMBETH ROAD
«200
HEYFORD AVENUE
DORSET ROAD
MARKET ENTRANCE
PASCAL STREET
WILCOX ROAD
GARDENS
New Covent Garden Market
HEMANS STREET
DAVIDSON GARDENS
HARTINGTON ROAD
KENCHESTER CLOSE
TRADESCANT ROAD
BOLNEY STREET
WILKINSON STREET
ST STEPHEN'S TERRACE
FOUNT ST
THORNCROFT STREET
MAWBEY ST
CRIMSWORTH RD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ARCHBISHOP'S PARK
CARLISLE LANE
HERCULES ROAD
COSSER STREET
KENNINGTON ROAD
KING EDWARD WALK
«110
«56
LAMBETH ROAD
ST GEORGE'S ROAD
GLADSTONE STREET
COLNBROOK ST
GARDEN ROW
LONDON RD
ONTARIO STREET
Elephant & Castle
GERALDINE MARY HARMSWORTH PARK
Imperial War Museum
GERALDINE ST
WEST SQUARE
AUSTRAL STREET
HAYLES STREET
ELLIOTT'S ROW
OSWIN STREET
LAMLASH ST
BROOK DRIVE
WALCOT SQUARE
SAIL STREET
PRATT WALK
JUXON STREET
LAMBETH WALK
WALNUT TREE WALK
OLD PARADISE ST
FITZALAN STREET
LOLLARD STREET
ST MARY'S WALK
OAKDEN STREET
MONKTON STREET
WINCOTT STREET
GILBERT ROAD
RENFREW ROAD
LONGVILLE ROAD
DANTE ROAD
HOLYOAK ROAD
CHURCHYARD ROW
PLAYING FIELDS
NEWINGTON BUTTS
NEWPORT STREET
RAVENT ROAD
WALK
GIBSON ROAD
LAMBETH
LAMBETH WALK
PRINCE ROAD
BEAUFOY WALK
MARYLEE WAY
REEDWORTH STREET
KEMPSFORD ROAD
«138
«150
LANE
WINCHESTER CLOSE
CANTERBURY PLACE
STREET
BLACK PRINCE ROAD
SANCROFT STREET
CHESTER WAY
DENNY STREET
KENNINGTON
OPAL STREET
COTTINGTON ST
COTTINGTON CLOSE
PENTON PLACE
ROAD
JONATHAN STREET
TYERS STREET
WICKHAM STREET
VAUXHALL STREET
ORSETT STREET
NEWBURN STREET
COURTENAY STREET
AVELINE STREET
CARDIGAN STREET
«293
«182
Kennington
ALBERTA STREET
AMBERGATE STREET
TYERS TERRACE
LOUGHBOROUGH STREET
CLEAVER STREET
CLEAVER SQUARE
BRAGANZA STREET
DELVERTON ROAD
MANOR PLACE
ST OSWALD'S PLACE
METHLEY STREET
MILVERTON ST
RAVENSDON STREET
PARK
DE LAUNE STREET
GAZA STREET
SHARSTED STREET
DODDINGTON GROVE
«191
KENNINGTON LANE
GASHOLDER PLACE
MONTFORD PLACE
STANNARY STREET
HARMSWORTH STREET
FAUNCE STREET
CHAPTER RD
DURHAM ST
OVAL WAY
FARNHAM ROYAL
VAUXHALL STREET
KENNINGTON GROVE
KENNINGTON PARK PLACE
DODDINGTON PLACE
WESTCOTT ROAD
LORRIMORE SQ
CLAYTON STREET
409»
BOWLING GREEN STREET
WESTCOTT RD
FLEMING ROAD
ROAD
KENNINGTON OVAL
The Oval
«106
«64
EBBISHAM DRIVE
OVAL
KENNINGTON PARK
ROYAL ROAD
FORSYTH GARDENS
COOK'S ROAD
KENNINGTON PARK GARDENS
OTTO STREET
LORRIMORE ROAD
ST AGNES PLACE
«54
CLAYLANDS ROAD
Oval
HILLINGDON STREET
BETHWIN RD
PRIMA ROAD
«5
«2
123»
CAMBERWELL
FENTIMAN ROAD
PALFREY PLACE
OFFLEY ROAD
RUSKIN
CARROUN ROAD
RICHBORNE TERRACE
HANDFORTH ROAD
CRANMER ROAD
FOXLEY ROAD
JOHN
WARHAM STREET
FARMER'S ROAD
OVAL PLACE
PALFREY
CLAPHAM
CREWDSON ROAD
CHRYSSELL ROAD
HOLLAND GROVE
KENDAL CLOSE
NEW ROAD
DORSET ROAD
«66
SOUTH ISLAND PLACE
BRIXTON
MANDELA STREET
VASSALL ROAD
LANGTON RD
WYNDHAM ROAD
«105
HACKFORD RD
MOWLL ST
185»

SHOPS AND MARKETS

LIBERTY
SELFRIDGES&Co

Bags from two famous London department stores

London is one of the great shopping cities of Europe, with bustling, lively street markets, world-famous department stores and a wide variety of eclectic shops selling clothes, antiques, crafts and much more. The best shopping areas range from up-market districts such as Knightsbridge and Bond Street, which sell expensive designer clothes, to the busy, chaotic stretch of Oxford Street. The vibrant markets of Covent Garden, Berwick Street and Brick Lane are also popular. The city is best known, however, for its huge range of clothes shops selling everything from traditional tweeds to the latest zany designs of the ever-changing high-street fashion trends.

WHEN TO SHOP

In central London, most shops stay open from 10am to about 5.30–6pm Monday to Saturday. Many department stores, however, have longer hours. The "late night" shopping until 7 or 8pm is on Thursday and Friday in Oxford Street and the rest of West End; and on Wednesday in Knightsbridge and Chelsea. Some shops in tourist areas, such as Covent Garden and the Trocadero, are open until 7pm or later every day, including Sunday. Some street markets and a number of other shops are usually open on Sundays as well.

TWICE-YEARLY SALES

The traditional sale season is from January to February and from June to July, when shops slash prices and sell off left-over stock. The department stores have some of the best reductions – queues for the famous Harrods sale start to form long before it opens.

SHOPPING AREAS

London's best shopping areas range from the up-market Knightsbridge, where porcelain, jewellery and couture come at the highest prices, to colourful markets, where getting the cheapest bargains is what it's all about.

The city beckons specialist shoppers with its treasures and collectibles crammed into inviting antiques shops, and streets full of antiquarian booksellers and art galleries.

BEST OF THE DEPARTMENT STORES

Harrods is the king of the city's department stores with over 300 departments and a staff of 5,000. The spectacular food hall with Edwardian tiles displays fish, cheese, fruit and vegetables. Other specialities include fashion, china and glass, kitchenware and electronics. Londoners also often head for the nearby **Harvey Nichols**, which stocks the best of everything. The clothing department is particularly strong, with an emphasis on talented British, European and American names. The food hall, opened in 1992, is one of London's most stylish.

Selfridges, on Oxford Street, has expanded its range in recent years. It has arguably the widest choice of labels, a great lingerie department and a section devoted to emerging designers. It also has a food hall that features delicacies from all over the world.

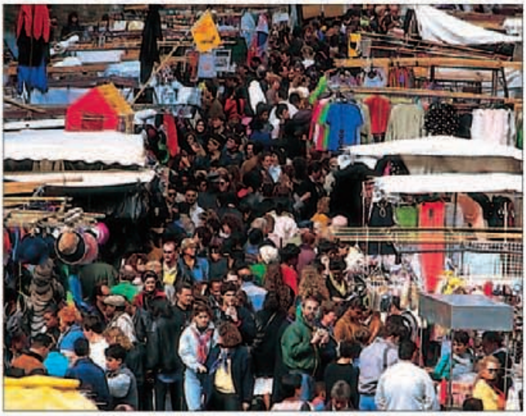
Originally a drapery, **John Lewis**, to this date, has a good selection of fabrics and haberdashery. Its china, glass and household items make this store and its Sloane Square partner, **Peter Jones**, equally popular with Londoners.

Liberty, near Carnaby Street, has been famous ever since 1875 for its beautiful silks and other Oriental goods. Don't forget to check out the famous scarf department.

Fortnum and Mason's is best known for its ground-floor food department. It has everything from Fortnum's tins of biscuits and tea to cured meats and lovely wicker hampers. In fact, these exquisite delicacies are so engrossing that the upper floors filled with classic fashion and luxury items often remain free of crowds.

Harrods at night, illuminated by 11,500 lights

MARKETS



Bustling Petticoat Lane market, officially known as Middlesex Street

Whatever you're looking for, it's definitely worth visiting one of London's colourful markets. Many of them mix English traditions with those of more recent immigrants, creating an exotic atmosphere and a truly fascinating array of merchandise. At some, the seasoned hawkers have honed their sales patter to an entertaining art, which reaches fever pitch just before closing, when the plummeting prices at the end of the day are announced. Keep your wits about you, your hand on your purse and join in the fun.

Among the best of the West End markets are **Grays Antiques** and **Jubilee and Apple** markets in Covent Garden. Although it is somewhat touristy, **Piccadilly Crafts** is also very popular. In Soho, the spirited costermongers of **Berwick Street** peddle some of the cheapest and freshest fruit and vegetables in the area.

In the East End, **Petticoat Lane** is probably the most famous of London's street markets. Those in search of the latest street fashions make a beeline for **Old Spitalfields**, while **Brick Lane** is massively popular due to its trendy location. Here you can find everything from shellfish to trainers. Nearby, **Columbia Road** is perfect for greenery and blossoms.

South of the river, **East Street** also has a flower market, but the majority of its traders sell clothes. **Bermondsey Market** is a gathering point for London's antiques traders. Collectors set off early to scrutinize the fine paintings and old jewellery. **Borough** *(see p120)* caters to the restaurant trade with it's fine food and farmer's market. **Brixton Market** stocks a superb assortment of Afro-Caribbean foods, often to the pounding beat of reggae music.

In north London, **Camden Lock Market** offers a vibrant atmosphere and stalls selling everything from vintage clothes to lovely crafts. In nearby Islington, **Camden Passage** is a quiet cobbled street where charming cafés nestle among quaint antiques shops.

In Notting Hill, **Portobello Road** is actually a bunch of markets rolled into one, and an entire afternoon can be spent browsing there.

DIRECTORY

DEPARTMENT STORES

Fortnum & Mason
181 Piccadilly W1. **Map** 11 A3. ***Tel*** *020 7734 8040*.

Harrods
87–135 Brompton Rd SW1. **Map** 9 C5. ***Tel*** *020 7730 1234*.

Harvey Nichols
109–125 Knightsbridge SW1. **Map** 9 C5. ***Tel*** *020 7235 5000*.

John Lewis
278–306 Oxford St W1. **Map** 10 E1. ***Tel*** *020 7629 7711*.

Liberty
210–20 Regent St W1. **Map** 10 F2. ***Tel*** *020 7734 1234*.

Peter Jones
Sloane Sq, SW1. **Map** 18 D2. ***Tel*** *020 7730 3434*.

Selfridges
400 Oxford St W1. **Map** 10 D2. ***Tel*** *0800 123 400*.

MARKETS

Bermondsey Market
Long Lane & Bermondsey St SE1. **Map** 13 C5. ○ *4am–1pm Fri*.

Berwick Street
Berwick St W1. **Map** 11 A2. ○ *9am–6pm Mon–Sat*.

Borough
8 Southwark St SE1. **Map** 13 B4. ○ *11am–5pm Thu, noon–6pm Fri, 8am–5pm Sat*.

Brick Lane
Brick Lane E1. **Map** 6 E5. ○ *dawn–1pm Sun*.

Brixton Market
Electric Ave SW9. ○ *8am–7pm daily*.

Camden Lock Market
Chalk Farm Rd NW1. ⊖ Camden Town, Chalk Farm. ○ *9:30am–5:30pm daily*.

Camden Passage
Camden Passage N1. **Map** 4 F1. ○ *10am–2pm Wed, 10am–5pm Sat*.

Columbia Road
Columbia Rd E2. **Map** 6 D3. ⊖ Shoreditch, Old St. ○ *8am–1pm Sun*.

East Street
East St SE17. ⊖ Elephant & Castle. ○ *8am–5pm Tue–Sun (to 2pm Thu & Sun)*.

Grays Antiques
58 Davies St, Mayfair. **Map** 10 E2. ○ *10am–6pm Mon–Fri*.

Greenwich
College Approach SE10. ○ *11am–6pm Wed, 10am–5:30pm Thu & Fri, 9am–6pm Sat & Sun*.

Jubilee and Apple
Covent Gdn Piazza WC2. **Map** 11 C2. ○ *9am–5pm daily*.

Old Spitalfields
Commercial St E1. ⊖ Liverpool St. **Map** 6 D1. ○ *10am–4pm Mon–Sat, 9am–5pm Sun*.

Petticoat Lane
Middlesex St E1. **Map** 14 E2. ○ *9am–2pm Sun*.

Piccadilly Crafts
St James's Church, Piccadilly W1. **Map** 11 A3. ○ *9am–6pm Wed–Sat*.

Portobello Road
Portobello Rd W10. **Map** 7 C3. ○ *daily (main market Sat)*.

Exclusive designer clothes on sale at Harrods, Knightsbridge

CLOTHES

British tailoring and fabrics are world-renowned for their high quality. **Henry Poole & Co, H Huntsman & Sons** and **Gieves & Hawkes** are among the most highly respected tailors on Savile Row.

A new generation of trend-conscious tailors who specialize in modern cuts and fabrics has firmly established itself on the fashion scene. The line-up includes **Richard James** and **Ozwald Boateng**. Several stalwarts of classic British style have also reinvented themselves as fashion labels. **Burberry** is the best example, although it still does a brisk trade in its famous trenchcoats, and distinctive accessories. Designers **Margaret Howell** and **Nicole Farhi** create trend-setting versions of British country garments for men as well as women.

London designers are known for their eclectic, irreverent style. *Grande dames* of fashion, **Zandra Rhodes** and **Vivienne Westwood** have been on the scene since the 1970s. Many other British designers of international stature also have their flagship stores in the capital, including **Stella McCartney**, the late **Alexander McQueen**, **Paul Smith** and **Matthew Williamson**. Designer clothes, however, are not just the preserve of the rich. If you want to flaunt a bit of British design but can't afford the high prices, it's worth visiting **Debenhams**, which has harnessed the talents of numerous leading designers. Cheaper versions of all the latest styles appear in the shops almost as soon as they have been sashayed down the catwalk. **Topshop** and **Oasis** have both won celebrity fans for their up-to-the-minute ensembles of hip and youthful fashions for women; young professionals head to **French Connection**. The up-market chains **Jigsaw** and **Whistles** are more expensive, with their emphasis on beautiful fabrics and shapes. Fashion-conscious young men can turn to **Reiss** and **Ted Baker** for trendy clothing.

SHOES

Some of the most famous names in the footwear industry are based in Britain. If you can spare a few thousand pounds, you can have a pair custom-made by the Royal Family's shoemaker, **John Lobb**. Readymade, traditional brogues and Oxfords are the mainstay of **Church's Shoes**. **Oliver Sweeney** gives classics a contemporary edge. **The British Boot Company** in Camden has the widest range of funky Dr Martens, appropriated by rock'n'rollers and the grunge set. **Jimmy Choo** and **Manolo Blahnik** are two all-time favourites of most fashionable women all over the world. Less expensive, yet good quality designs can be found in **Hobbs** or **Pied à Terre**, while **Faith** and **Office** turn out young, voguish styles.

GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS

Contemporary Applied Arts and the market in Covent Garden Piazza stock uniquely British pottery, knitwear and other crafts. To buy all your gifts under one roof, visit Liberty *(see p148),* where all kinds of exquisite items can be found in every department.

Leading museums such as the Victoria and Albert *(see pp98–9)*, Natural History and Science Museums *(see p100)* sell unusual mementos as well. Alternatively, try **Hamley's** for gifts and toys.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

The bookshops in London rank among its most illustrious specialities. Charing Cross Road is a treasure-trove for those hunting for antiquarian, second-hand and new volumes. It is the home of **Foyles**, famous for its massive stock. Large branches of chains such as **Waterstone's** co-exist with many specialist stores in this highly learned street.

Hatchards in Piccadilly is the city's oldest bookshop and also one of its finest, offering an extensive and varied choice of titles.

Vintage Magazines in Soho, as its name suggests, stocks publications dating back to the early 1900s – collectors of back issues will be delighted.

Foyles bookshop on the legendary Charing Cross Road

ART AND ANTIQUES

Art and antiques shops abound in London, and you are sure to find something of beauty and value within your means.

Cork Street is the centre of Britain's contemporary art world. **Waddington Galleries** is the best known, while **Redfern Art Gallery** and **Flowers** exhibit unusual modern art.

Visit **Roger's Antiques Galleries** and Grays Antiques *(see p148)* for striking vintage jewellery and objets d'art.

The East End is a growing area for contemporary art. The cutting-edge **White Cube Gallery** is there, as is the internationally renowned **Whitechapel Art Gallery**.

For photography, visit the **Photographers' Gallery**, which has the largest collection of originals for sale in Britain. **Hamiltons Gallery** also hosts interesting exhibitions.

DIRECTORY

CLOTHES

Alexander McQueen
4–5 Old Bond St W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7355 0088.*

Burberry
21–23 New Bond St W1. **Map** 10 F2. ***Tel*** *020 3402 1444. One of several branches.*

Debenhams
334–348 Oxford St W1. **Map** 10 E2. ***Tel*** *08445 616 161.*

French Connection
249–251 Regent St W1. **Map** 10 F2. ***Tel*** *020 7493 3124. One of several branches.*

Gieves & Hawkes
1 Savile Row W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7434 2001.*

H Huntsman & Sons
11 Savile Row W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7734 7441.*

Henry Poole & Co
15 Savile Row W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7734 5985.*

Jigsaw
6 Duke of York Sq, Kings Rd SW3. **Map** 17 C2. ***Tel*** *020 7730 4404.*

Margaret Howell
34 Wigmore St W1. **Map** 10 E1. ***Tel*** *020 7009 9006.*

Matthew Williamson
28 Bruton St W1. **Map** 10 E3. ***Tel*** *020 7629 6200.*

Nicole Farhi
158 New Bond St W1. **Map** 10 E2. ***Tel*** *020 7499 8368.*

Oasis
12–14 Argyll St W1. **Map** 10 F2. ***Tel*** *020 7434 1799.*

Ozwald Boateng
30 Savile Row & 9 Vigo St W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7437 0620.*

Paul Smith
Westbourne House 120 & 122 Kensington Park Rd W11. **Map** 7 B2. ***Tel*** *020 7727 3553.*

Reiss
Kent House, 14–17 Market Place W1. **Map** 10 F1. ***Tel*** *020 7637 9112. One of several branches.*

Richard James
29 Savile Row W1. **Map** 10 F2. ***Tel*** *020 7434 0605.*

Stella McCartney
30 Bruton St W1. **Map** 10 E3. ***Tel*** *020 7518 3100.*

Ted Baker
9–10 Floral St WC2. **Map** 11 C2. ***Tel*** *020 7836 7808. One of several branches.*

Topshop
Oxford Circus W1. **Map** 10 F1. ***Tel*** *08448 487 487. One of several branches.*

Vivienne Westwood
6 Davies St W1. **Map** 10 E2. ***Tel*** *020 7629 3757.*

Whistles
303 Brompton Rd SW3. **Map** 17 B2. ***Tel*** *020 7823 9134.*

Zandra Rhodes
79 Bermonsey St, SE1. **Map** 11 C5. ***Tel*** *020 7403 5333.*

SHOES

The British Boot Company
5 Kentish Town Rd NW1. **Map** 2 F1. ***Tel*** *020 7485 8505.*

Church's Shoes
201 Regent St W1. **Map** 10 F2. ***Tel*** *020 7734 2438.*

Faith
192–194 Oxford St W1. **Map** 10 F1. ***Tel*** *020 7580 9561.*

Hobbs
47–48 South Molton St W1. **Map** 10 E2. ***Tel*** *020 7629 0750. One of several branches.*

Jimmy Choo
27 New Bond St W1. **Map** 10 F2. ***Tel*** *020 7493 5858.*

John Lobb
9 St James's St SW1. **Map** 10 F4. ***Tel*** *020 7930 3664.*

Manolo Blahnik
49–51 Old Church St, Kings Road SW3. **Map** 17 A4. ***Tel*** *020 7352 8622.*

Office
57 Neal St WC2. **Map** 11 B1. ***Tel*** *020 7379 1896. One of several branches.*

Oliver Sweeney
66 New Bond St W1. **Map** 10 E2. ***Tel*** *020 7355 0387.*

Pied à Terre
179 South Molton St W1. **Map** 10 E2. ***Tel*** *020 7629 1362.*

GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS

Contemporary Applied Arts
2 Percy St WC1. **Map** 11 A1. ***Tel*** *020 7436 2344.*

Hamley's
188–196 Regent St W1. **Map** 10 F2. ***Tel*** *0871 7041977.*

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Foyles
113–119 Charing Cross Rd WC2. **Map** 11 B1. ***Tel*** *020 7437 5660.*

Hatchards
187 Piccadilly W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7439 9921.*

Vintage Magazines
39–43 Brewer St W1. **Map** 11 A2. ***Tel*** *020 7439 8525.*

Waterstone's
203–205 Piccadilly W1. **Map** 11 A3. ***Tel*** *020 7851 2400. One of several branches.*

ART AND ANTIQUES

Flowers
21 Cork St W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7439 7766.*

Hamiltons Gallery
13 Carlos Place W1. **Map** 10 E3. ***Tel*** *020 7499 9493.*

Photographers' Gallery
16–18 Ramillies St W1. **Map** 10 F2. ***Tel*** *0845 262 1618.*

Redfern Art Gallery
20 Cork St W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7734 1732.*

Roger's Antiques Galleries
65 Portobello Road W11. **Map** 7 A1. ***Tel*** *020 7467 5787.*

Waddington Galleries
11, 12 Cork St W1. **Map** 10 F3. ***Tel*** *020 7851 2200.*

White Cube Gallery
48 Hoxton Square N1. **Map** 5 C3. ***Tel*** *020 7930 5373.*

Whitechapel Art Gallery
80–82 Whitechapel High St E1. **Map** 14 E1. ***Tel*** *020 7522 7888.*

ENTERTAINMENT IN LONDON

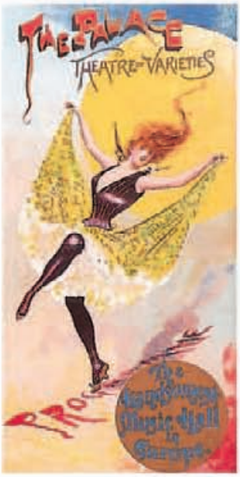
LIVE
JAZZ
FREE
8pm
every sunday

Many London cafés have free live music

London has the enormous variety of entertainment that only the great cities of the world can provide. The historical backdrop and the lively bustling atmosphere add to the excitement. Whether dancing the night away at a famous disco or making the most of London's varied arts scene, the visitor has a bewildering choice. A trip to London is not complete without a visit to the theatre which ranges from glamorous West End musicals to experimental Fringe plays. There is world-class ballet and opera in fabled venues such as Sadler's Wells and the Royal Opera House. The musical menu covers everything from classical, jazz and rock to rhythm and blues performed in atmospheric basement clubs, old converted cinemas and outdoor venues such as Wembley. Movie buffs can choose from hundreds of films each night. Sports fans can watch cricket at Lord's or participate in a host of activities from water sports to ice skating.

Time Out, published every Tuesday, is the most comprehensive guide to what is on in London, with detailed weekly listings and reviews. *The Evening Standard, The Guardian* (Saturday) and *The Independent* also have reviews and information on events. If you buy tickets from booking agencies rather than direct from box offices, do compare prices – and only buy from ticket touts if you are desperate.

WEST END AND NATIONAL THEATRES



Palace Theatre poster (1898)

The glamorous, glittering world of West End theatreland, emblazoned with the names of world-famous performers, offers an extraordinary range of entertainment.

West End theatres (see Directory for individual theatres) survive on their profits and rely on financial backers, known as "angels". Consequently, they tend to stage commercial productions with mass appeal: musicals, classics, comedies and plays by bankable contemporary playwrights.

The state-subsidized **National Theatre** is based in the Southbank Centre *(see p154)*. It has three auditoriums – the large, open-staged Olivier, the proscenium-arched Lyttelton, and the small studio space of the Cottesloe.

The **Royal Shakespeare Company** (RSC) regularly stages Shakespeare plays, but its repertoire includes Greek tragedies, Restoration comedies and modern works. Based at Stratford-upon-Avon *(see pp325–27)*, its major productions perform at London West End theatres. The RSC ticket hotline has information. **The Old Vic** has been rejuvenated recently under the artistic directorship of Kevin Spacey, whose exciting programme of drama attracts wide audiences.

Theatre tickets generally cost from £5 to £50 (for a top price West End show) and can be bought direct from box offices, by telephone or post. The "tkts" discount theatre ticket booth in Leicester Square sells tickets for a wide range of shows on the day of performance. It is open Monday to Saturday (10am–7pm) for matinees and evening shows, and Sundays (noon–3pm) for matinees only.

OFF-WEST END AND FRINGE THEATRES

Off-West End theatre is a middle category bridging the gap between West End and Fringe theatre. It includes venues that, regardless of location, have a permanent management team and often provide the opportunity for established directors and actors to turn their hands to more adventurous works in a smaller, more intimate, environment. Fringe theatres, on the other hand, are normally venues hired out to visiting companies. Both offer a vast array of innovative productions, serving as an outlet for new, often experimental writing.

Venues (too numerous to list – see newspaper listings),

The Old Vic, the first home of the National Theatre from 1963

Open-air theatre at Regent's Park

range from tiny theatres or rooms above pubs such as the Gate, which produces neglected European classics, to theatres such as the Donmar Warehouse, which attracts major directors and actors.

OPEN-AIR THEATRE

In summer, a performance of one of Shakespeare's airier creations such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, takes on an atmosphere of enchantment among the green vistas of Regent's Park (0870-060 1811). Lavish summer opera productions are staged at Holland Park (020-7602 7856). Shakespeare's Globe *(see p120)* offers open-air theatrical performances in a beautifully recreated Elizabethan theatre.

CINEMAS

The West End abounds with multiplex cinema chains (MGM, Odeon, UCI) which show big budget Hollywood films, usually in advance of the rest of the country, although release dates tend to lag well behind the US and many other European countries.

The Odeon Marble Arch has the largest commercial screen in Europe, while the Odeon Leicester Square boasts London's biggest auditorium with almost 2,000 seats.

Londoners are well-informed cinema-goers and even the larger cinema chains include some low-budget and foreign films in their repertoire. The majority of foreign films are subtitled, rather than dubbed. A number of independent cinemas, such as the Renoir and Prince Charles in central London, and the Curzon in Mayfair, show foreign-language and art films.

The largest concentration of cinemas is in and around Leicester Square although there are local cinemas in most areas. Just off Leicester Square, the Prince Charles is the West End's cheapest cinema. Elsewhere in the area you can expect to pay as much as £10 for an evening screening – almost twice the price of the local cinemas. Monday and afternoon performances in the West End are often cheaper.

ODEON IMAX CINEMA

BFI IMAX Cinema, at Waterloo

The BFI Southbank, at the Southbank Centre, is London's flagship repertory cinema. Subsidized by the British Film Institute, it screens a wide range of films, old and new, from all around the world. Nearby at Waterloo is the BFI IMAX, with one of the world's largest screens.

DIRECTORY

Adelphi
Strand. **Map** 11 C3.
Tel *0870 403 0303*.

Aldwych
Aldwych. **Map** 11 C2.
Tel *0870 400 0805*.

Apollo
Shaftesbury Ave.
Map 11 B2.
Tel *020 7834 6318*.

Cambridge
Earlham St. **Map** 11 B2.
Tel *0870 264 3333*.

Comedy
Panton St. **Map** 11 A3.
Tel *0870 060 6637*.

Criterion
Piccadilly Circus. **Map** 11 A3. ***Tel*** *0870 847 1778*.

Dominion
Tottenham Court Rd. **Map** 11 A1. ***Tel*** *0870 607 7400*.

Duchess
Catherine St. **Map** 11 C2.
Tel *020 7632 9600*.

Duke of York's
St Martin's Lane. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0870 060 6623*.

Fortune
Russell St. **Map** 11 C2.
Tel *0870 060 6626*.

Garrick
Charing Cross Rd. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0870 040 0083*.

Gielgud
Shaftesbury Ave. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0844 482 5130*.

Her Majesty's
Haymarket. **Map** 11 A3.
Tel *0844 412 2707*.

Lyceum
Wellington St. **Map** 11 C2. ***Tel*** *0870 243 9000*.

Lyric
Shaftesbury Ave. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0870 890 1107*.

National
South Bank. **Map** 12 D3.
Tel *020 7452 3000*.

New London
Drury Lane. **Map** 11 C1.
Tel *0870 890 0141*.

Noel Coward
St Martin's Lane. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0844 482 5120*.

Novello Theatre
Aldwych. **Map** 12 D2.
Tel *0844 482 5120*.

The Old Vic
Waterloo Rd SE1.
Map 12 E4.
Tel *0870 060 6628*.

Palace
Cambridge Circus W1. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0870 890 0142*.

Phoenix
Charing Cross Rd. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0870 060 6629*.

Piccadilly
Denman St. **Map** 11 A2.
Tel *0870 060 0123*.

Prince Edward
Old Compton St. **Map** 11 D5. ***Tel*** *0844 482 5151*.

Prince of Wales
Coventry St. **Map** 11 A3.
Tel *0844 482 5115*.

Queen's
Shaftesbury Ave. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0844 482 5160*.
RSC ***Tel*** *01789 403 444*.

Shaftesbury
Shaftesbury Ave. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0844 482 5160*.

St Martin's
West St. **Map** 11 B2.
Tel *0844 499 1515*.

Theatre Royal: Drury Lane
Catherine St. **Map** 11 C2.
Tel *020 7087 7500*.

Theatre Royal: Haymarket
Haymarket. **Map** 11 A3.
Tel *0870 844 2353*.

Vaudeville
Strand. **Map** 11 C3.
Tel *020 7836 9987*.

Wyndham's
Charing Cross Rd. **Map** 11 B2. ***Tel*** *0844 482 5120*.

Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre

CLASSICAL MUSIC, OPERA AND DANCE

London is one of the world's great centres for classical music, with five symphony orchestras, internationally renowned chamber groups such as the Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields and the English Chamber Orchestra, as well as a number of contemporary groups. There are performances virtually every week by major international orchestras and artists, reaching a peak during the summer Proms season at the **Royal Albert Hall** *(see p63)*. The newly restored **Wigmore Hall** has excellent acoustics and is a fine setting for chamber music, as is the converted Baroque church (1728) of **St John's, Smith Square**.

Although televised and outdoor performances by major stars have greatly increased the popularity of opera, prices at the **Royal Opera House** *(see p80)* are still aimed at corporate entertainment but the policy now is to keep a few cheaper seats. The refurbished building is elaborate and productions are often extremely lavish. English National Opera, based at the **London Coliseum**, has more adventurous productions, appealing to a younger audience (nearly all operas are sung in English). Tickets range from £5 to £200 and it is advisable to book in advance.

The Royal Opera House is also home to the Royal Ballet, and the London Coliseum to the English National Ballet, the two leading classical ballet companies in Britain. Visiting ballets also perform in both. There are numerous young contemporary dance companies, and **The Place** is a dedicated contemporary dance theatre where many companies perform. Other major dance venues are **Sadler's Wells**, the **ICA**, the **Peacock Theatre** and the **Chisenhale Dance Space**.

The **Barbican Concert Hall** and **Southbank Centre** (comprising the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room) host an impressive variety of events ranging from touring opera and classical music performances to free foyer concerts.

Elsewhere in London many outdoor musical events take place in summer *(see pp62–3)* at venues such as **Kenwood House**. Events to look out for are: the London Opera Festival (June) with singers from all over the world; the City of London Festival (July) which hosts a range of varied musical events; and contemporary dance festivals Spring Loaded (February–April) and Dance Umbrella (October) – see *Time Out* and newspaper listings.

Kenwood House on Hampstead Heath ***(see p124)***

DIRECTORY

CLASSICAL MUSIC, OPERA AND DANCE

Barbican Concert Hall
Silk St EC2. **Map** 5 A5.
Tel *020 7638 4141*.
www.barbican.org.uk

Chisenhale Dance Space
64–84 Chisenhale Rd E3.
⊖ *Bethnal Green, Mile End*. ***Tel*** *020 8981 6617*.
www.chisenhaledancespace.co.uk

ICA
The Mall SW1. **Map** 11 A4. ***Tel*** *020 7930 3647*.
www.ica.org.uk

Kenwood House
(EH) Hampstead Lane NW3. ***Tel*** *020 8348 1286*.

London Coliseum
St Martin's Lane WC2.
Map 11 B3. ***Tel*** *0870 145 0200*. **www**.eno.org

Peacock Theatre
Portugal St WC2. **Map** 12 D1. ***Tel*** *0844 412 4322*.

The Place
17 Duke's Rd WC1. **Map** 3 B3. ***Tel*** *020 7121 1100*.
www.theplace.org.uk

Royal Albert Hall
Kensington Gore SW7.
Map 8 F5. ***Tel*** *020 7589 8212*. **www**.royalalberthall.com

Royal Opera House
Floral St WC2. **Map** 11 C2. ***Tel*** *020 7304 4000*.
www.roh.org.uk

Sadler's Wells
Rosebery Ave EC1.
Tel *0844 412 4300*.
www.sadlerswells.com

St John's, Smith Sq
Smith Sq SW1. **Map** 19 B1. ***Tel*** *020 7222 1061*.
www.sjss.org.uk

Southbank Centre
SE1. **Map** 12 D3. ***Tel*** *0871 663 2500*. **www**.southbankcentre.co.uk

Wigmore Hall
Wigmore St W1. **Map** 10 D1. ***Tel*** *020 7935 2141*.
www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

ROCK, POP, JAZZ AND CLUBS

100 Club
100 Oxford St W1. **Map** 10 F1. ***Tel*** *020 7636 0933*.
www.the100club.co.uk

333
333 Old St EC1.
Tel *020 7739 1800*.

Brixton Academy
211 Stockwell Rd SW9.
⊖ *Brixton*. ***Tel*** *0870 771 2000*. **www**.brixton-academy.co.uk

Café de Paris
3 Coventry St W1. **Map** 4 D5. ***Tel*** *020 7734 7700*.

Jazz Café, Camden

ROCK, POP, JAZZ AND CLUBS

London features scores of concerts, ranging from rock and pop, to jazz, Latin, world, folk and reggae. Among the city's largest venues are **The O2** and the **Royal Albert Hall**; smaller venues include **Brixton Academy** and the **Forum**.

There are a number of live jazz venues. Best of the old crop is **Ronnie Scott's**, although the **100 Club, Jazz Café** and **Pizza on the Park** have good reputations. The **Hippodrome** (on Leicester Square) also hosts jazz as well as cabaret nights.

London's club scene is one of the most innovative in Europe. It is dominated by big-name DJs, who host different nights in different clubs (see *Time Out* and newspaper listings). The West End discos **Ruby Blue** and the **Café de Paris** are glitzy, expensive and very much on the tourist circuit. The New York-style **Ministry of Sound**, the camp cabaret of **Madame Jojo's**, the trendy Shoreditch clubs **333** and **Cargo**, and a host of other venues ensure that you will never be short of choice. Alternatives are the excellent laser and light shows at **Heaven**, the glamorous super-club **Pacha London**, or the live music venue **Koko** in Camden, which also hosts a variety of club nights. **Heaven** and the **Fridge** are among the most popular of London's gay clubs.

Opening times are usually 10pm–3am, but on weekends many clubs open until 6am.

SPORTS

An impressive variety of public sports facilities are to be found in London, and they are generally inexpensive to use. Swimming pools, squash courts, gyms and sports centres, with an assortment of keep-fit classes, can be found in most districts, and tennis courts hired in most parks. Water sports, ice skating and golf are among the variety of activities on offer. Spectator sports range from football and rugby at various club grounds to cricket at **Lord's** or the **Oval**, and tennis at the **All England Lawn Tennis Club**, Wimbledon. Tickets for the most popular matches can often be hard to come by *(see p67)*. More traditional sports include polo at **Guards**, croquet at **Hurlingham** (private members only) and medieval tennis at **Queen's Club Real Tennis**. See pages 662–665 for more on sporting activities.

Booth selling discounted tickets in Leicester Square

Cargo
83 Rivington St EC2. ⊖ *Old St.* ***Tel*** *020 7749 7844.*

Forum
9–17 Highgate Rd NW5.
⊖ *Kentish Town.*
Tel *020 7428 4099.*

Fridge
Town Hall Parade, Brixton Hill SW2. ⊖ *Brixton.*
Tel *020 7326 5100.*

Heaven
Under the Arches, Villiers St WC2. **Map** 11 C3.
Tel *020 7930 2020.*

Jazz Café
3–5 Parkway NW1.
⊖ *Camden Town.*
Tel *020 7485 6834.*

Koko
1A Camden High St NW1.
⊖ *Mornington Crescent*
Tel *0870 432 5527.*

Madame Jojo's
8–10 Brewer St W1. **Map** 11 A2. ***Tel*** *020 7734 3040.*

Ministry of Sound
103 Gaunt St SE1.
⊖ *Elephant & Castle.*
Tel *0870 060 0010.*

Pacha London
Terminus Place, SW1. **Map** 18 F1. ***Tel*** *0845 371 4489.*
www.pachalondon.com

Pizza on the Park
11 Knightsbridge SW1.
Map 10 D5. ***Tel*** *020 7235 7825.*

Ronnie Scott's
47 Frith St W1. **Map** 11 A2.
Tel *020 7439 0747.*
www.ronniescotts.co.uk

Ruby Blue
Leicester Sq WC2. **Map** 4 E5. ***Tel*** *0871 223 0869.*

The O2
Peninsula Square SE10.
⊖ *North Greenwich.*
Tel *020 8463 6718.*

SPORTS

All England Lawn Tennis Club
Church Rd, Wimbledon SW19. ⊖ *Southfields.*
Tel *020 8946 2244.*

Guards Polo Club
Windsor Great Park, Englefield Green, Egham.
⇌ *Egham.*
Tel *01784 434212.*

Hurlingham Club
Ranelagh Gdns SW6.
Map 18 D3. ***Tel*** *020 7736 8411.*

Lord's Cricket Ground
St John's Wood NW8.
⊖ *St John's Wood.*
Tel *020 7289 1611.*

Oval Cricket Ground
The Oval, Kennington SE11. ⊖ *Oval.*
Tel *020 7820 5700.*

Queen's Club Real Tennis
Palliser Rd W14.
⊖ *Barons Court.*
Tel *020 7385 3421.*

SOUTHEAST ENGLAND

INTRODUCING SOUTHEAST ENGLAND 158–163

THE DOWNS AND CHANNEL COAST 164–189

EAST ANGLIA 190–215

THAMES VALLEY 216–237

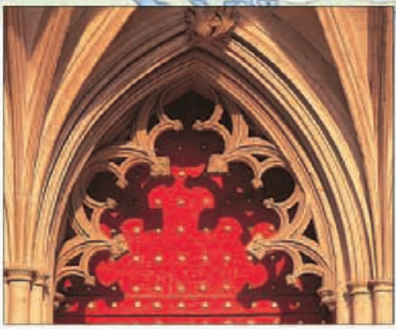
Southeast England at a Glance

The old Saxon kingdoms covered the areas surrounding London, and today, while their accessibility to the capital makes them a magnet for commuters, each region retains a character and history of its own. The attractions include England's oldest universities, royal palaces, castles, stately homes and cathedrals, many of which played critical roles in the nation's early history. The landscape is soft, with the green and rounded hills of the south country levelling out to the flat fertile plains and fens of East Anglia, fringed by broad, sandy beaches.

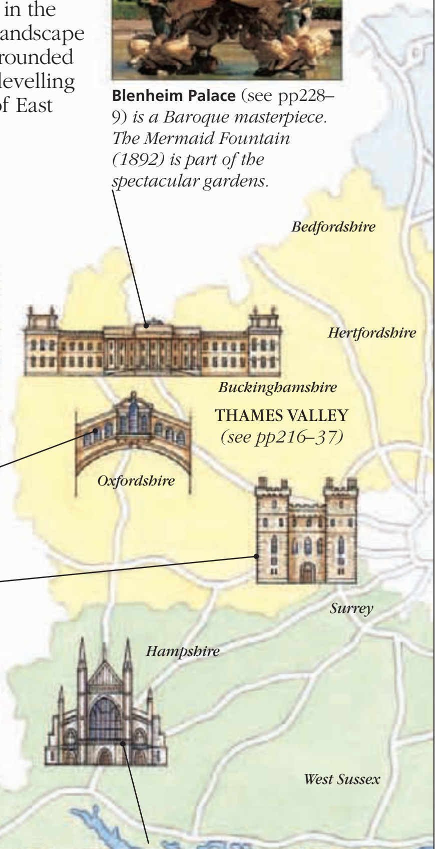
Blenheim Palace (see pp228–9) *is a Baroque masterpiece. The Mermaid Fountain (1892) is part of the spectacular gardens.*

Oxford University's *buildings* (see pp222–7) *amount to a textbook of English architecture from the Middle Ages to the present. Christ Church College (1525) is the largest in the university.*

Windsor Castle (see pp236–7) *is Britain's oldest royal residence. The Round Tower was built in the 11th century when the palace guarded the western approaches to London.*

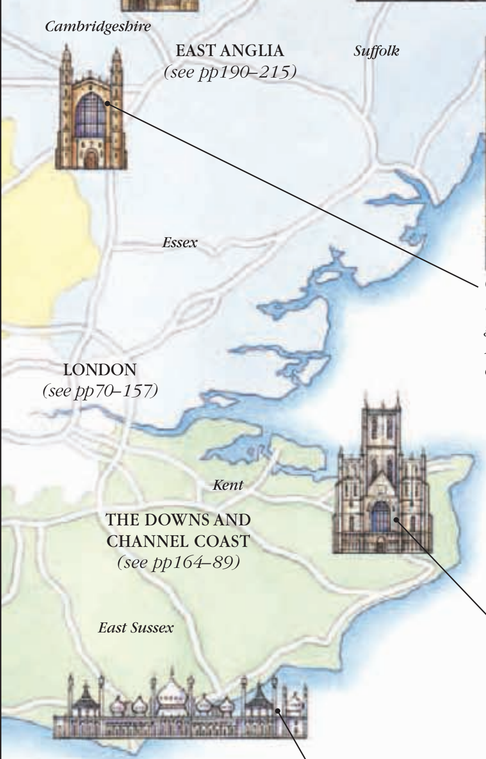


Winchester Cathedral (see pp170–1) *was begun in 1097 on the ruins of a Saxon church. The city has been an important centre of Christianity since the 7th century. The cathedral's northwest door is built in a characteristic medieval style.*



◁ **The white cliffs of Dover, Kent**

Ely Cathedral's (see pp194–5) *south transept contains some of the finest stone carving in Britain. The octagonal corona was added in the 14th century when the Norman tower collapsed; the replacement tower dominates the surrounding flat fenland.*


Norfolk
Cambridgeshire
EAST ANGLIA
(see pp190–215)
Suffolk
Essex
LONDON
(see pp70–157)
Kent
THE DOWNS AND CHANNEL COAST
(see pp164–89)
East Sussex
0 kilometres 25
0 miles 25

Cambridge University's (see pp210–15) *buildings are enhanced by the quiet college gardens, the Backs and the public commons. King's College Chapel is the outstanding example of late medieval architecture in the city.*

Canterbury Cathedral (see pp186–7) *is the spiritual home of the Church of England. It contains some of the country's most exquisite medieval stained glass such as the nave's west window. It also has some well-preserved 12th-century wall paintings.*

Brighton's Royal Pavilion (see pp178–9) *was built for the Prince Regent and is one of the most lavish buildings in the land. Its design by John Nash* (see p107) *is based on Oriental themes, and it has been restored to its original splendour.*

The Garden of England

White wine from the southeast

With its fertile soil, mild climate and regular rainfall, the Kentish countryside has flourished as a fruit-growing region ever since its first orchards were planted by the Romans. Wine-making has also been established here, as the vine-covered hillsides around Lamberhurst show, and several vineyards may be visited. The orchards are dazzling in the blossom season, and in the autumn the branches sag with ripening fruit – a familiar sight which inspired William Cobbett (1762–1835) to describe the area as "the very finest as to fertility and diminutive beauty in the whole world". Near Faversham, the fruit research station of Brogdale is open to the public, offering orchard walks, tastings and informative displays.

HOPS AND HOPPING

Hop-picking, a family affair

Oast houses, topped with distinctive angled cowls, are a common feature of the Kentish landscape, and many have now been turned into houses. They were originally

SEASONAL FRUIT

This timeline shows the major crops in each month of the farming year. The first blossoms may appear when the fields are still dusted with snow. As the petals fall, fruit appears among the leaves. After ripening in the summer sun, the fruit is harvested in the autumn.

Peach blossom *is usually to be found on south-facing walls, as its fruit requires warm conditions.*

Orchards *are used to grow plums, pears and apples. The latter (blossoming above) remain Kent's most important orchard crop.*

Raspberries *are a luscious soft fruit. Many growers allow you to pick your own from the fields, and then pay by weight.*

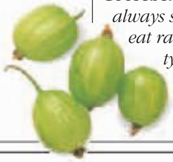
MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

Sour cherry blossom *is the earliest flower. Its fruit is used for cooking.*

Pear blossom *has creamy white flowers which appear two or three weeks before apple blossom.*

Cherry plum blossom *is one of the most beautiful blossoms; the plum is grown more for its flowers than its fruit.*

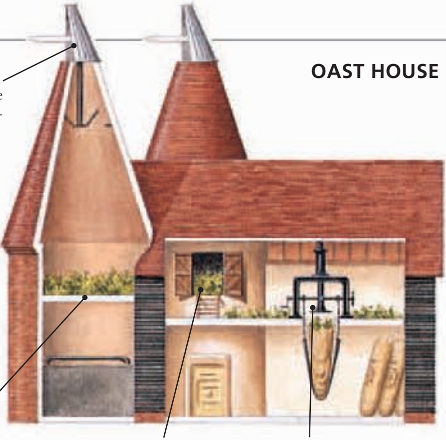
Srawberries *are Britain's favourite and earliest soft fruit. New strains allow them to be picked all summer.*


Gooseberries *are not always sweet enough to eat raw, though all types are superb in pies and other desserts.*

built to dry hops, an ingredient in brewing beer *(see pp604–5)*. Many are still used for that, for although imports have reduced domestic hop-growing, more than four million tonnes are produced in Britain annually, mostly in Kent.

In summer, the fruiting plants can be seen climbing the rectangular wire frames in fields by the roadside. Until the middle of the 20th century thousands of families from London's East End would move to the Kentish hop fields every autumn for working holidays harvesting the crop and camping in barns. That tradition has faded, because now the hops are picked by machine.

OAST HOUSE



The cowls turn in the wind, providing air which is controlled by trapdoors below.

Hops are dried above a fan which blows hot air from the underlying radiators.

After drying, the hops are cooled and stored.

A press packs the hops into bags, ready for the breweries.

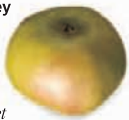
Cherries *are the sweetest of Kent's fruit: two popular varieties are Stella (top) and Duke.*

Plums *are often served stewed, in pies, or dried into prunes. The Victoria plum (left) is the classic English dessert plum and is eaten raw. The Purple plum is also popular.*

Greengages *are green plums. They have a distinctive taste and can be made into jam.*

Pears, *such as the William (left), should be eaten at the height of ripeness. The Conference keeps better.*

Bramley Seedling *is one of the best cooking apples, but it is not sweet enough to eat raw.*



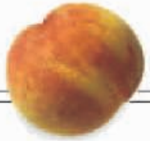
AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER

Currants *are among the most assertively flavoured fruit and are used in desserts and jams.*

Dessert apples, *such as Cox's Orange Pippin (right), are some of England's best-loved fruits. The newer Discovery is easier to grow.*

The Kentish cob, *a variety of hazelnut, is undergoing a revival, having been eclipsed by European imports. Unlike many nuts, it is best picked fresh from the tree.*

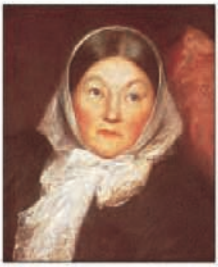
Peaches, *grown in China 4,000 years ago, came to England in the 19th century.*



Vineyards *are now a familiar sight in Kent (as well as Sussex and Hampshire). Most of the wine produced, such as Lamberhurst, is white.*

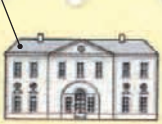
Houses of Historical Figures

Visiting the homes of artists, writers, politicians and royalty is a rewarding way of gaining an insight into their private lives. Southeast England, near London, boasts many historic houses that have been preserved as they were when their illustrious occupants were alive. All these houses, from large mansions such as Lord Mountbatten's Broadlands to the more modest dwellings, like Jane Austen's House, contain exhibits relating to the life of the famous people who lived there.



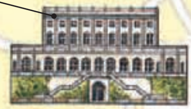
Florence Nightingale *(1820–1910), the "Lady with the Lamp", was a nurse during the Crimean War* (see p56). *She stayed at Claydon with her sister, Lady Verney.*

Nancy Astor *(1879–1964) was the first woman to sit in Parliament in 1919. She lived at Cliveden until her death and made it famous for political hospitality.*

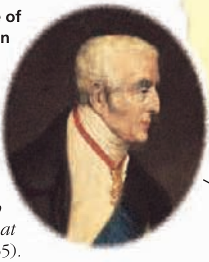


Claydon House, Winslow, nr Milton Keynes

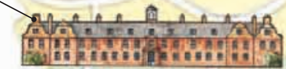
THAMES VALLEY
(see pp216–17)



Cliveden House, nr Maidenhead

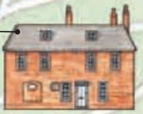


The Duke of Wellington *(1769–1852) was given this house by the nation in 1817, in gratitude for leading the British to victory at Waterloo* (see p55).

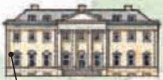


Stratfield Saye, Basingstoke, nr Windsor

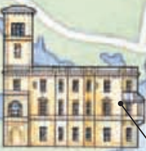
Jane Austen *(1775–1817) wrote three of her novels, including* Emma, *and revised the others at this house where she lived for eight years until shortly before her death* (see p172).



Jane Austen's House, Chawton, nr Winchester



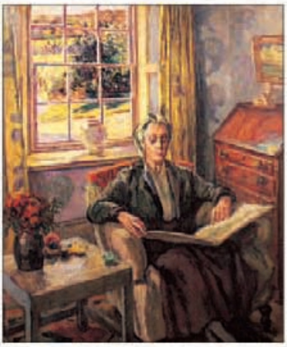
Broadlands, nr Southampton



Osborne House, Isle of Wight

Lord Mountbatten (1900–79), a British naval commander and statesman, was the last Viceroy of India in 1947. He lived here all his married life and remodelled the original house considerably.

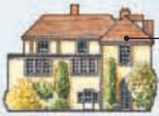
Queen Victoria (1819–1901) and her husband, Prince Albert, built Osborne House *(see p168)* in 1855 as a seaside retreat for their family because they never truly warmed to the Royal Pavilion in Brighton.



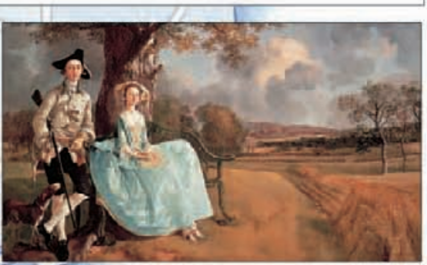
BLOOMSBURY GROUP

A circle of avant-garde artists, designers and writers, many of them friends as students, began to meet at a house in Bloomsbury, London, in 1904 and soon gained a reputation for their Bohemian lifestyle. When Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell moved to Charleston in 1916 *(see p180)*, it became a Sussex outpost of the celebrated group. Many of the prominent figures associated with the circle, such as Virginia Woolf, EM Forster, Vita Sackville-West and JM Keynes paid visits here. The Bloomsbury Group was also known for the Omega Workshops, which made innovative ceramics, furniture and textiles.

***Vanessa Bell at Charleston* by Duncan Grant (1885–1978)**

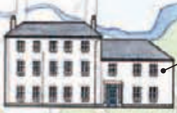


Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, nr Ipswich



Thomas Gainsborough *(1727–88), one of Britain's greatest painters, was born in this house* (see p194). *He was best known for his portraits, such as this one of* Mr and Mrs Andrews.

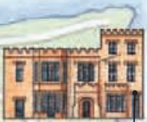
EAST ANGLIA
(see pp190–215)



Down House, Downe, nr Sevenoaks

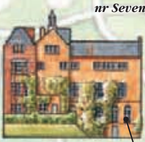
Charles Darwin *(1809–82), who developed the theory that man and apes have a common ancestor, wrote his most famous book,* On the Origin of Species, *at the house where he lived.*

THE DOWNS AND CHANNEL COAST
(see pp164–89)



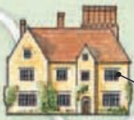
Bleak House, Broadstairs, nr Margate

Charles Dickens (1812–70), the prolific and popular Victorian novelist *(see p189),* had many connections with Kent. He took holidays at Bleak House, later named after his famous novel.



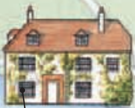
Chartwell, Westerham, nr Sevenoaks

Winston Churchill (1874–1965), Britain's inspirational Prime Minister in World War II *(see p189),* lived here for 40 years until his death. He relaxed by rebuilding parts of the house.



Batemans, Burwash, nr Hastings

Rudyard Kipling *(1865–1936), the poet and novelist, was born in India, but lived here for 34 years until his death. His most famous works include* Kim, *the two* Jungle Books *and the* Just So Stories.



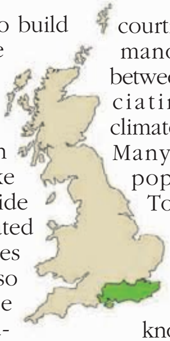
Charleston, Lewes

Vanessa Bell (1879–1961), artist and member of the Bloomsbury Group, lived here until her death in 1961. The 18th-century farmhouse reflects her decorative ideas and is filled with murals, paintings and painted furniture *(see p180).*

THE DOWNS AND CHANNEL COAST

HAMPSHIRE · SURREY · EAST SUSSEX · WEST SUSSEX · KENT

When settlers, invaders and missionaries came from Europe, the southeast coast was their first landfall. The wooded chalk ridges and lower-lying weald beyond them made an ideal base for settlement and proved to be productive farmland.



The Romans were the first to build major fortifications along the Channel Coast to discourage potential attackers from the European mainland. The remains of many of these can be seen today, and some, like Portchester Castle just outside Portsmouth, were incorporated into more substantial defences in later centuries. There also exists substantial evidence of Roman domestic buildings, such as Fishbourne Palace, in coastal areas and further inland.

The magnificence of cathedrals such as Canterbury and Winchester bear witness to their role as important bases of the medieval church, then nearly as powerful as the state. Many Kent and Sussex ports grew prosperous on trade with the Continent – as did the hundreds of smugglers who operated from them. From Tudor times on, monarchs, noblemen and courtiers acquired estates and built manor houses in the countryside between London and the coast, appreciating the area's moderate climate and proximity to the capital. Many of these survive and are popular attractions for visitors. Today the southeast corner of England is its most prosperous and populous region. Parts of Surrey and Kent, up to 20 miles (32 km) from the capital, are known as the Stockbroker Belt: the area has many large, luxurious villas belonging to wealthy people prominent in business and the professions, attracted by the same virtues that appealed to the Tudor gentry.

The fertile area of Kent has long been known as the Garden of England, and despite the incursion of bricks and mortar, it is still a leading area for growing fruit *(see pp160–1),* being in a prime position for the metropolitan market nearby.

Aerial view of the medieval and moated Leeds Castle

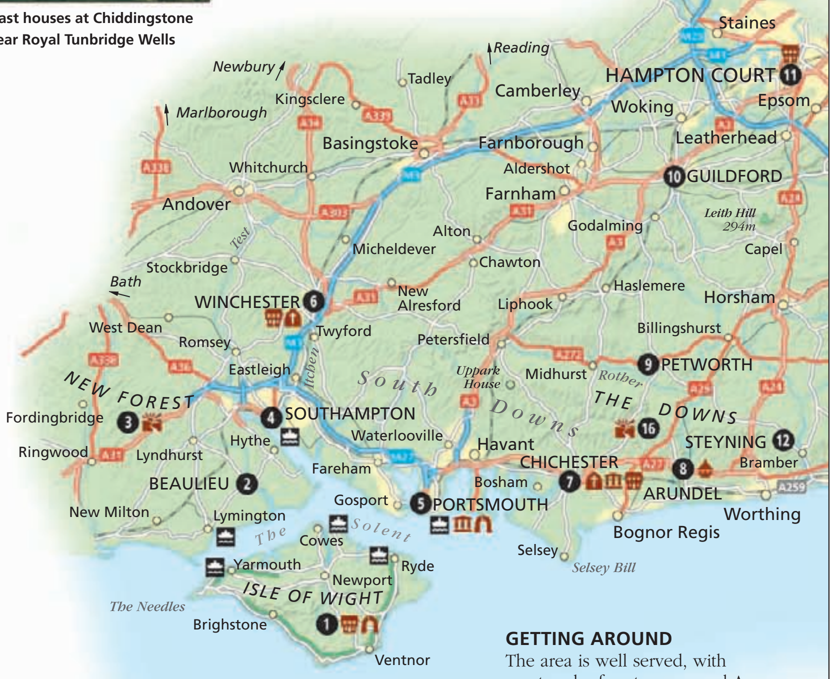
◁ **A lush covering of bluebells in the deciduous woodlands of Kent**

Exploring the Downs and Channel Coast

The North and South Downs, separated by the lower-lying Weald are ideal walking country as well as being the site of many stately homes. From Tudor times, wealthy, London-based merchants and courtiers built their country residences in Kent, a day's ride from the capital, and many are open to the public. On the coast are the remains of sturdy castles put up to deter invaders from across the Channel. Today, though, the seashore is largely devoted to pleasure. Some of Britain's earliest beach resorts were developed along this coast, and sea bathing is said to have been invented in Brighton.

View of Brighton Pier from the promenade

Oast houses at Chiddingstone near Royal Tunbridge Wells


Staines
Reading
Newbury
Tadley
Camberley
HAMPTON COURT 11
Marlborough
Kingsclere
Woking
Epsom
Basingstoke
Farnborough
Leatherhead
Whitchurch
Aldershot
10 GUILDFORD
Andover
Farnham
Leith Hill 294m
Test
Alton
Godalming
Capel
Micheldever
Stockbridge
Chawton
Bath
Haslemere
Horsham
WINCHESTER 6
New Alresford
Liphook
West Dean
Twyford
Billingshurst
Romsey
Petersfield
Itchen
Uppark House
Midhurst
9 PETWORTH
Eastleigh
South Downs
Rother
NEW FOREST
THE DOWNS
Fordingbridge
3
4 SOUTHAMPTON
16
STEYNING 12
Hythe
Waterlooville
Havant
Ringwood
Lyndhurst
CHICHESTER
Bramber
Fareham
8
BEAULIEU 2
Bosham
7
ARUNDEL
Gosport
5 PORTSMOUTH
New Milton
Lymington
Worthing
The Solent
Cowes
Bognor Regis
Selsey
Yarmouth
Ryde
Selsey Bill
Newport
ISLE OF WIGHT
The Needles
Brightstone
1
Ventnor
A338
A34
A339
A33
A3
A24
A303
A31
A272
A29
A27
A259
A36
M3
M25
M27
0 kilometres 20
0 miles 10

GETTING AROUND

The area is well served, with a network of motorways and A roads from London to the major towns. The A259 is a scenic coast road which offers fine views over the English Channel. Bus and rail transport is also good, with a number of coach companies providing regular tours to the major sites. An InterCity train service runs to all the major towns.

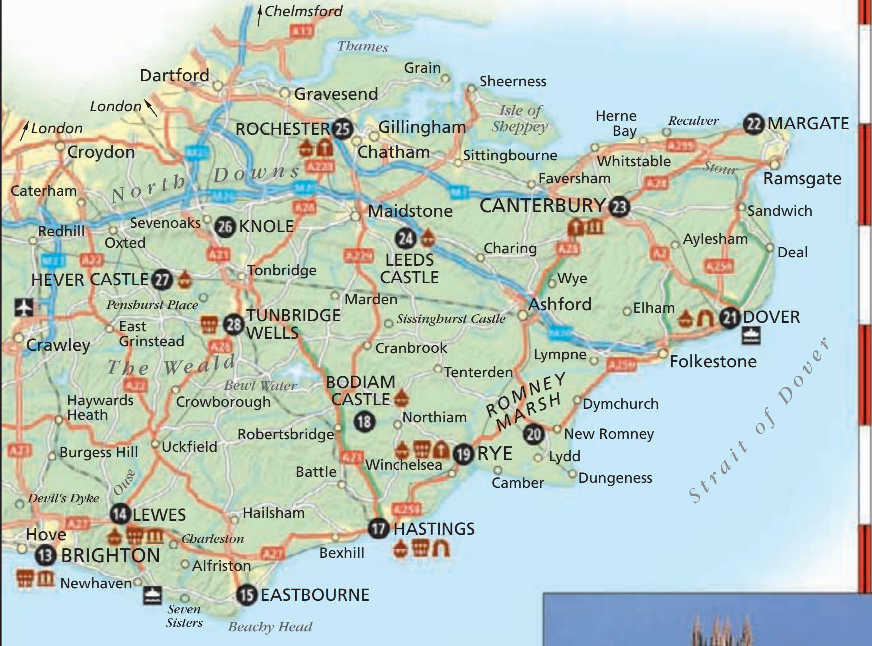
SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp563–5
- ***Where to Eat*** pp615–18

For additional map symbols *see back flap*

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- Arundel ⑧
- Beaulieu ②
- Bodiam Castle ⑱
- *Brighton pp174–9* ⑬
- *Canterbury pp186–7* ㉓
- Chichester ⑦
- Dover ㉑
- The Downs ⑯
- Eastbourne ⑮
- Guildford ⑩
- *Hampton Court p173* ⑪
- Hastings ⑰
- Hever Castle ㉗
- Isle of Wight ①
- Knole ㉖
- Leeds Castle ㉔
- Lewes ⑭
- Margate ㉒
- Rochester ㉕
- New Forest ③
- Petworth House ⑨
- Portsmouth ⑤
- Romney Marsh ⑳
- Royal Tunbridge Wells ㉘
- *Rye pp184–5* ⑲
- Southampton ④
- Steyning ⑫
- *Winchester pp170–71* ⑥


Chelmsford
A130
Thames
Grain
Sheerness
Dartford
Gravesend
London
London
Isle of Sheppey
Herne Bay
Reculver
㉒ MARGATE
ROCHESTER ㉕
Gillingham
Croydon
Chatham
Sittingbourne
Whitstable
Stour
Ramsgate
M25
A229
North Downs
Faversham
Caterham
A28
M2
M26
A26
Maidstone
CANTERBURY ㉓
Sandwich
Sevenoaks
㉖ KNOLE
Redhill
Oxted
㉔ LEEDS CASTLE
Charing
Aylesham
Deal
M23
A22
A21
A229
A28
A2
A256
HEVER CASTLE ㉗
Tonbridge
Wye
Marden
Ashford
Elham
㉑ DOVER
Penshurst Place
East Grinstead
㉘ TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Sissinghurst Castle
M20
Crawley
Cranbrook
Lympne
Folkestone
The Weald
A26
Bewl Water
Tenterden
A259
A21
Haywards Heath
Crowborough
BODIAM CASTLE
ROMNEY MARSH
Dymchurch
Strait of Dover
⑱
Northiam
⑳
New Romney
Robertsbridge
A23
Burgess Hill
Uckfield
⑲ RYE
Lydd
Winchelsea
A21
Battle
Camber
Dungeness
Devil's Dyke
Ouse
⑭ LEWES
Hailsham
A259
⑰ HASTINGS
Hove
A27
Charleston
⑬ BRIGHTON
A27
Bexhill
Alfriston
Newhaven
⑮ EASTBOURNE
Seven Sisters
Beachy Head

KEY

- Motorway
- Major road
- Secondary road
- Minor road
- Scenic route
- Main railway
- Minor railway
- ▲ Summit

Canterbury Cathedral's spire, dominating the skyline

The Victorian Osborne House, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight ❶

Isle of Wight. 👥 *138,000.* ⛴ *from Lymington, Southampton, Portsmouth.* ℹ *Union Street, Ryde (01983 813813).* **www**.islandbreaks.co.uk

A visit to **Osborne House**, the favoured seaside retreat of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert *(see p160)*, is alone worth the ferry ride from the mainland. Furnished much as they left it, the house provides a marvellous insight into royal life and is dotted with family mementoes.

The **Swiss Cottage** was built for the royal children to play in. It is now a museum attached to Osborne House. Adjacent to it you can see the bathing machine used by the queen to preserve her modesty while taking her to the edge of the sea *(see p369)*.

The other main sight on the island is **Carisbrooke Castle**, built in the 11th century. A walk on its outer wall and the climb to the top of its keep provides spectacular views. It was here that Charles I *(see pp52–3)* was held prisoner in 1647; an attempt to escape was foiled when he got stuck between the bars of a window.

The island is a base for ocean sailing, especially during Cowes Week *(see p67)*. The scenic highlight is the **Needles** – three towers of rock jutting out of the sea at the island's western end. This is only a short walk from Alum Bay, famous for its multi-coloured cliffs and sand.

🏠 Osborne House
(EH) East Cowes. ***Tel*** *01983 200022.* ○ *daily (Nov–Mar: Wed–Sun for* ☞ *only, phone for details).* 🚫 ♿ *limited.* 🍴 ☕ *(also* ☕ *in Swiss Cottage Apr–Oct only).* 🛍

🏰 Carisbrooke Castle
Newport. ***Tel*** *01983 522107.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 🚫 ♿ *limited.* ☞ ☕ *in summer.* 🛍

Beaulieu ❷

Brockenhurst, Hampshire. ***Tel*** *01590 612345.* 🚆 *Brockenhurst then taxi.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🛍 🚫 ♿ ☞ *by appt.* ☕ **www**.beaulieu.co.uk

Palace House, once the gatehouse of Beaulieu Abbey, has been the home of Lord Montagu's family since 1538. It now contains the finest collection of vintage cars in the country at the **National Motor Museum**, along with boats used in the James Bond films.

There is also an exhibition of monastic life in the ruined ancient **abbey**, founded in 1204 by King John *(see p48)* for Cistercian monks. The original refectory now serves as the parish church.

Environs: Just south is the maritime museum at **Buckler's Hard**, telling the story of shipbuilding in the 18th century. The yard employed 4,000 men at its peak but declined when steel began to be used. Boat trips are available.

🏛 Buckler's Hard
Beaulieu. ***Tel*** *01590 614645.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🚫 ♿ *ltd.* ☕ 🛍

New Forest ❸

Hampshire. 🚆 *Brockenhurst.* 🚌 *Lymington then bus.* ℹ *main car park, Lyndhurst (023 8028 2269).* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* **www**.thenewforest.co.uk

This unique expanse of heath and woodland is, at 145 sq miles (375 sq km), the largest area of unenclosed land in southern Britain.

Despite its name, this is one of the few primeval oak woods in England. It was the popular hunting ground of Norman kings, and in 1100 William II was fatally wounded here in a hunting accident.

Today it is enjoyed by up to seven million visitors a year, who share it with the New Forest ponies, unique to the area, and over 1,500 fallow deer.

Southampton ❹

Hampshire. 👥 *220,000.* ✈ 🚆 🚌 ⛴ ℹ *9 Civic Centre Road (023 8083 3333).* **www**.visit-southampton.co.uk

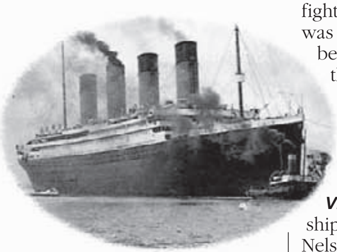
For centuries this has been a flourishing port. The *Mayflower* sailed from here to America in 1620 with the

A 1909 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost at Beaulieu's National Motor Museum

Pilgrim Fathers, as did the *Titanic* on its maiden and ultimately tragic voyage in 1912.

The **Maritime Museum** has exhibits about both these ships, along with displays on the huge romantic liners that sailed from the port in the first half of the 20th century.

There is a walk around the remains of the medieval city wall. At the head of the High Street stands the old city gate, **Bargate**, the most elaborate gate to survive in England. It still has its 13th-century drum towers and is decorated with intricate, 17th-century armorial carvings. **God's House Tower Museum of Archaeology** consists of a 13th-century gatehouse and 15th-century gallery and tower, and includes displays from the Roman to medieval periods.



The luxurious liner the *Titanic*, which sank in 1912

🏛 Maritime Museum
Town Quay Rd. ***Tel*** *023 8063 5904.*
○ 10am–4pm Tue–Sat, 1–4pm Sun. ● 1 Jan, 25, 26 Dec, some public hols. ♿ limited. 📷 🛍

🏛 God's House Tower Museum
Winkle St. ***Tel*** *023 8063 5904.*
○ 10am–4pm Tue–Sat, 1–4pm Sun.
♿ foyer & shop only. 🛍

Portsmouth ❺

Hampshire. *👥 190,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *The Hard (023 9282 6722).* *🧺 Thu–Sat.* **www**.visitportsmouth.co.uk

Once a vital naval port, Portsmouth is today a quiet town but fascinating for those interested in English naval history.

Under the banner of **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard**, the city's historic dockyard is the hub of Portsmouth's most important sights. Among these is the hull of the ***Mary Rose***, the favourite of Henry VIII *(see p50)*, which capsized on its maiden voyage as it left to fight the French in 1545. It was recovered from the sea bed in 1982 along with thousands of 16th-century objects now on display nearby, giving an absorbing insight into life at sea in Tudor times.

Alongside it is **HMS *Victory***, the English flagship on which Admiral Nelson was killed at Trafalgar *(see p31)* and now restored to its former glory. You can also visit the **Royal Naval Museum** which deals with naval history from the 16th century to the Falklands War, the 19th-century **HMS *Warrior,*** and galleries telling the story of Nelson.

Portsmouth's other military memorial is the **D-Day Museum**. This is centred on the *Overlord Embroidery*, a masterpiece of needlework commissioned in 1968 from the Royal School of Needlework, depicting the World War II Allied landing in Normandy in 1944.

A wild pony and her foal roaming freely in the New Forest

The figurehead on the bow of HMS *Victory* at Portsmouth

Portchester Castle, on the north edge of the harbour, was fortified in the third century and is the best example of Roman sea defences in northern Europe. The Normans later used the Roman walls to enclose a castle – only the keep survives – and a church. Henry V used the castle as a garrison before the Battle of Agincourt *(see p49)*. In the 18th–19th centuries it was a prisoner-of-war camp.

Among less warlike attractions is the **Charles Dickens Museum** *(see p189),* the house where the author was born in 1812.

The striking **Spinnaker Tower** adds an innovative touch to Portsmouth's skyline. Rising to 170 m (558 ft), the views over the harbour and beyond are quite magnificent.

🏛 Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
The Hard. ***Tel*** *023 9272 8060.*
○ daily (last adm: 4pm).
● 24–26 Dec. 📷 ♿ 🍴 🛍

🏛 D-Day Museum
Museum Rd. ***Tel*** *023 9282 7261.*
○ daily. ● 24–26 Dec. 📷 ♿
☕ 🛍

Portchester Castle
Castle St, Porchester. ***Tel*** *023 9237 8291. ○ daily. ● 1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 📷 🎧 ∩

🏛 Charles Dickens Museum
393 Old Commercial Rd. ***Tel*** *023 9282 7261. ○ daily; 7 Feb (Dickens's birthday).* 📷 🛍 🍴

Spinnaker Tower
Gunwharf Quays. ***Tel*** *023 9285 7520. ○ daily.* 📷 🛍 ☕

Winchester ❻

Hampshire. 36,000.
ℹ *Guildhall, High St (01962 840500).* *Wed–Sat.*
www.visitwinchester.co.uk

Capital of the ancient kingdom of Wessex, the city of Winchester was also the headquarters of the Anglo-Saxon kings until the Norman Conquest *(see p47)*.

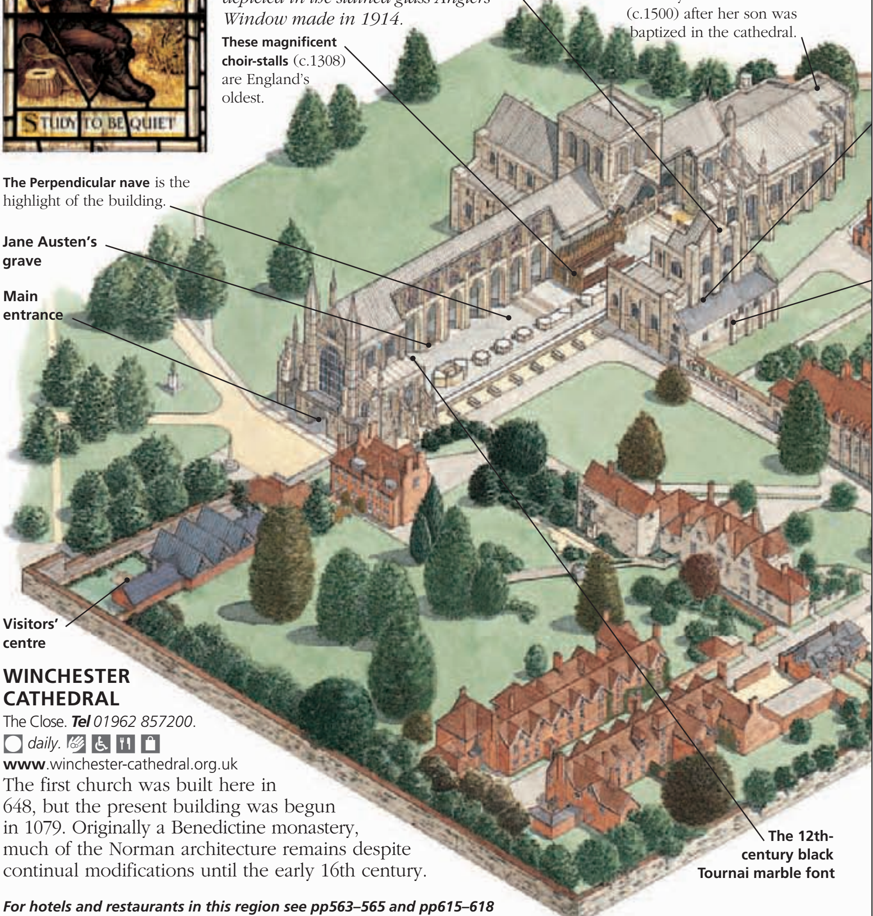
William the Conqueror built one of his first English castles here. The only surviving part of the castle is the **Great Hall**, erected in 1235 to replace the original. It is now home to the legendary Round Table. The story behind the table is a mix of history and myth. King Arthur *(see p285)* had it shaped so no knight could claim precedence. It was said to have been built by the wizard Merlin but was actually made in the 13th century.

The **Westgate Museum** is one of the two surviving 12th-century gatehouses in the city wall. The room (once a prison) above the gate has a 16th-century painted ceiling. It was moved here from Winchester College, England's oldest fee-paying, or "public" school. Winchester has been an ecclesiastical centre for many centuries. **Wolvesey Castle** (built around 1110) was the home of the **cathedral's** bishops after the Conquest. The **Hospital of St Cross** is an almshouse built in 1446.

The 13th-century Round Table, Great Hall, Winchester

STUDY TO BE QUIET

Author Izaac Walton *(1593–1683) is depicted in the stained glass Anglers' Window made in 1914.*



These magnificent choir-stalls (c.1308) are England's oldest.

The Lady Chapel was rebuilt by Elizabeth of York (c.1500) after her son was baptized in the cathedral.

The Perpendicular nave is the highlight of the building.

Jane Austen's grave

Main entrance

Visitors' centre

The 12th-century black Tournai marble font

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

The Close. ***Tel*** *01962 857200.*
○ *daily.*
www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk

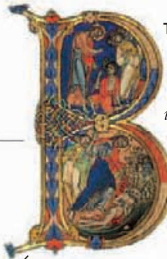
The first church was built here in 648, but the present building was begun in 1079. Originally a Benedictine monastery, much of the Norman architecture remains despite continual modifications until the early 16th century.

Weary strangers may claim the "Wayfarer's Dole" a horn (cup) of ale and bread, given out since medieval times.

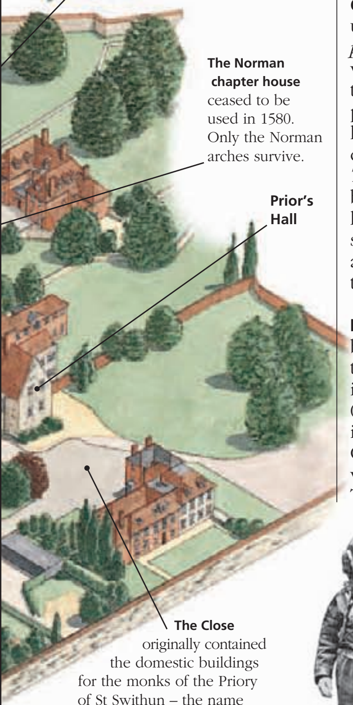
Great Hall & Visitor Centre
Castle Ave. ***Tel*** *01962 846476.*
○ *daily.* ● *25, 26 Dec.* ♿

Westgate Museum
High St. ***Tel*** *01962 869864.*
○ *Feb, Mar: Tue–Sun; Apr–Oct: Mon–Sun.* 🛍

Hospital of St Cross
St Cross Rd. ***Tel*** *01962 851375.*
○ *Mon–Sat.* ● *Good Fri, 25 Dec.*
♿ **www**.stcrosshospital.co.uk



The Library *has over 4,000 books. This "B" from Psalm 1 is found in the Winchester Bible, an exquisite work of 12th-century illumination.*



The Norman chapter house ceased to be used in 1580. Only the Norman arches survive.

Prior's Hall

The Close originally contained the domestic buildings for the monks of the Priory of St Swithun – the name before it became Winchester Cathedral. Most of the buildings, such as the refectory and cloisters, were destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries *(see p50).*

Chichester ⑦

West Sussex. 👥 *26,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *29A South St (01243 775888).* 🛒 *Wed, alternate Fri (Farmers' market), Sat.* **www**.visitchichester.org

This wonderfully preserved market town, with an elaborate early 16th-century market cross at its centre, is dominated by its **cathedral**, consecrated in 1108. The cathedral's graceful spire dominates the town and is said to be the only English cathedral spire visible from the sea. Also of interest is the cathedral's unique detached bell tower dating from 1436.

There are two carved stone panels in the choir, dating from 1140. Modern works include paintings by Graham Sutherland (1903–80) and a stained-glass window by Marc Chagall (1887–1985).

Environs: Just west at Bosham is the Saxon **Holy Trinity Church**, thought to have been used by King Canute *(see p46).* Myth has it that this was where Canute failed to stop the incoming tide and so proved to his courtiers that his powers had limits. The church appears in the *Bayeux Tapestry,* held in France, because Harold heard mass here in 1064 before he was shipwrecked off Normandy and then rescued by William the Conqueror *(see p47).*

The refurbished **Fishbourne Roman Palace** *(see p45),* between Bosham and Chichester, is the largest Roman villa in Britain. It covers 3 ha (7 acres) and was discovered in 1960 by a workman. Constructed from AD 75, it was destroyed by fire in 285. The north wing has some of the finest mosaics in Britain, including one of Cupid.

Chagall's stained-glass window (1978), Chichester Cathedral

To the north is the 18th-century **Goodwood House**. Its magnificent art collection features works by Canaletto (1697–1768) and Stubbs (1724–1806). Home to the Earl of March, it has a motor racing circuit, where the popular Festival of Speed is held in July, and a horseracing course on the Downs.

Chichester Cathedral
West St. ***Tel*** *01243 782595.* ○ *daily.* ● *for Mass.* ♿ ☕ 🛍

Fishbourne Roman Palace
Fishbourne. ***Tel*** *01243 785859.* ○ *Feb–mid-Dec: daily; mid-Dec–Jan (café closed): Sat, Sun.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.sussexpast.co.uk

Goodwood House
Goodwood. ***Tel*** *01243 755048.* ℹ *01243 755040.* ○ *Apr–Sep: Sun–Mon (pm); Aug: Sun–Thu (pm).* ● *special events, last-minute closures. Always call ahead.* ♿ ☕ 🛍

WILLIAM WALKER

At the beginning of the 20th century, the cathedral's east end seemed certain to collapse unless its foundations were underpinned. But because the water table lies only just below the surface, the work had to be done under water. From 1906 to 1911, Walker, a deep-sea diver, worked six hours a day laying sacks of cement beneath the unsteady walls until the building was safe.

William Walker in his diving suit

The dominating position of Arundel Castle, West Sussex

Arundel Castle ⑧

Arundel, West Sussex. ***Tel** 01903 882173.* 🚆 *Arundel.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 10am–4pm Tue–Sun.* ● *public hols.* ✋ ✋ *by arrangement.* 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.arundelcastle.org

Dominating the small riverside town below, this vast, grey hill-top castle, surrounded by castellated walls, was first built by the Normans.

During the 16th century it was acquired by the powerful Dukes of Norfolk, the country's senior Roman Catholic family, whose descendants still live here. They rebuilt it after the original was virtually destroyed by Parliamentarians in 1643 *(see p52),* and restored it again in the 19th century.

In the castle grounds is the parish church of **St Nicholas**. The small Catholic Fitzalan chapel (c.1380) was built into its east end by the castle's first owners, the Fitzalans, and can only be entered from the grounds.

Petworth House ⑨

(NT) Petworth, West Sussex. ***Tel** 01798 343929.* 🚆 *Pulborough then bus.* **House** ○ *Mar–Nov: Sat–Wed.* **Park** ○ *daily.* ✋ ♿ *limited.* 🍴 🛍 **www**.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth

This late 17th-century house was immortalized in a series of famous views by the painter J M W Turner *(see p91).* Some of his best paintings are on display here and are part of Petworth's outstanding art collection, which also includes works by Titian (1488–1576), Van Dyck (1599–1641) and Gainsborough *(see p163).* Also extremely well represented is ancient Roman and Greek sculpture, such as the 4th-century BC *Leconfield Aphrodite*, widely thought to be by Praxiteles.

The Carved Room is decorated with intricately carved wood panels of birds, flowers and musical instruments, by Grinling Gibbons (1648–1721).

The large deer park includes some of the earliest work of "Capability" Brown *(see p26).*

The Restoration clock on the Tudor Guildhall, Guildford

Guildford ⑩

Surrey. 👥 *63,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *14 Tunsgate (01483 444333).* 🧺 *Fri, Sat.* **www**.visitguildford.com

The county town of Surrey, settled since Saxon times, incorporates the remains of a small refurbished Norman **castle**. The high street is lined with Tudor buildings, such as the impressive **Guildhall**, and the huge modern red-brick cathedral, completed in 1954, dominates the town's skyline.

Environs: Guildford stands on the end of the North Downs, a range of chalk hills that are popular for walking *(see p37).* The area also has two famous beauty spots: **Leith Hill** – the highest point in southeast England – and **Box Hill**. The view from the latter is well worth the short, gentle climb from West Humble.

To the north of Guildford is **Wisley** with 97 hectares (240 acres) of beautiful gardens. To the south of the town is **Clandon Park**, an 18th-century house with a sumptuous interior. Its Marble Hall boasts an intricate Baroque ceiling.

Southwest is Chawton, where **Jane Austen's House** *(see p162)* is located. This red-brick house is where Austen wrote most of her popular, witty novels, including *Pride and Prejudice,* exploring middle-class manners in Georgian England.

🏠 **Wisley**
(RHS) Off A3. ***Tel** 0845 260 9000.* ○ *daily.* ✋ ♿ ☕ 🍴 🛍

🏠 **Clandon Park**
(NT) West Clandon, Surrey. ***Tel** 01483 222482.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Tue–Thu, Sun; public hols.* ✋ ♿ *limited.* 🍴 🛍

🏠 **Jane Austen's House**
Alton, Hants. ***Tel** 01420 83262.* ○ *Jan–Feb: Sat & Sun; Mar–Dec: daily.* ● *25 & 26 Dec.* ✋ ♿ *limited.* 🛍

Hampton Court ⓫

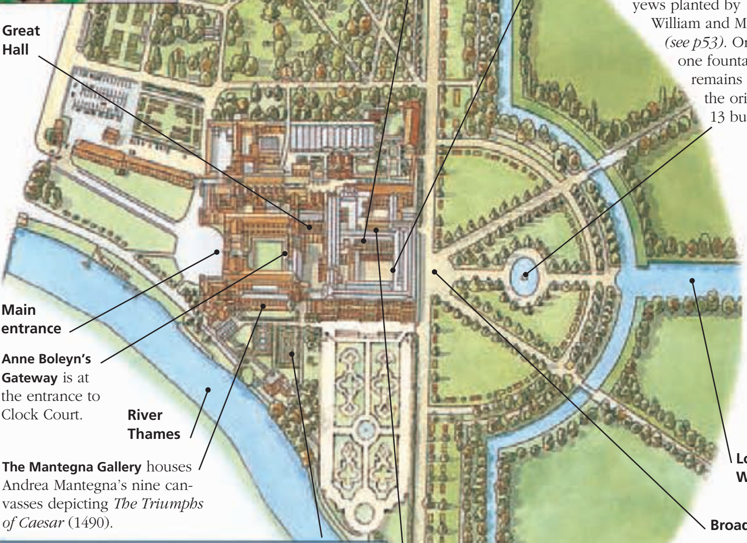
East Molesey, Surrey. ☎ *0844 482 7777.* 🚉 *Hampton Court.* ○ *daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.*
www.hrp.org.uk

The powerful chief minister and Archbishop of York to Henry VIII *(see pp50–51)*, Cardinal Wolsey, leased a small manor house in 1514 and transformed it into a magnificent country residence. In 1528, to retain royal favour, Wolsey gave it to the king. After the royal takeover, Hampton Court was extended twice, first by Henry himself and in the 1690s by William and Mary, who used Christopher Wren *(see p114)* as the architect. From the outside the palace is a harmonious blend of Tudor and English Baroque; inside there is a striking contrast between Wren's Classical royal rooms, which include the King's Apartments, and Tudor architecture, such as the Great Hall. Many of the state apartments are decorated with paintings and furnishings from the Royal Collection.

The Baroque gardens, with their radiating avenues of majestic limes, collections of rare plants and formal plant beds, have been painstakingly restored.

Ceiling decoration, Hampton Court

The Baroque maze *is one of the garden's most famous features; visitors often become lost in it.*



The Queen's Apartments, including the Presence Chamber and Bedchamber, are arranged around the the north and east sides of Fountain Court.

Fountain Court

The Fountain Garden still has a few of the original yews planted by William and Mary *(see p53)*. Only one fountain remains out of the original 13 built.

Great Hall

Main entrance

Anne Boleyn's Gateway is at the entrance to Clock Court.

River Thames

The Mantegna Gallery houses Andrea Mantegna's nine canvasses depicting *The Triumphs of Caesar* (1490).

Long Water

Broad Walk

The Pond Garden, *a sunken water garden, was part of Henry VIII's elaborate designs. The small pond in the middle contains a single-jet fountain.*

The Tudor Chapel Royal *was completed by Henry VIII. But the superb woodwork, including the massive reredos by Grinling Gibbons, all date from a major refurbishment by Queen Anne (c.1711).*

Steyning ⑫

West Sussex. *5,000* *9 The Causeway, Horsham (01403 211661).*

This lovely little town in the lee of the Downs is packed with timber-framed houses from the Tudor period and earlier, with some built of flint and others in sandstone.

In Saxon times, Steyning was an important port and shipbuilding centre on the River Adur: King Ethelwulf, father of King Alfred *(see p47)*, was buried here in 858; his body was later moved to Winchester. The *Domesday Book (see p48)* records that Steyning had 123 houses, making it one of the largest towns in the south. The 12th-century church is spacious and splendid, evidence of the area's ancient prosperity; the tower, of chequered stone and flint, was added around 1600.

In the 14th century the river silted up and changed course away from the town, putting an end to its days as a port. Later it became an important coaching stop on the south coast road: the **Chequer Inn** recalls this prosperous period, with its unusual 18th-century flint and stone façade.

Environs: The remains of a **Norman castle** can be visited at Bramber, east of Steyning. This small, pretty village also contains the timber-framed **St Mary's House** (1470). It has fine panelled rooms, including the Elizabethan Painted Room, and one of the oldest trees in the country, a *Ginkgo biloba.*

Chanctonbury Ring and **Cissbury Ring**, on the hills west of Steyning, were Iron Age forts and the latter has the remains of a Neolithic flint mine. Worthing is the resort where Oscar Wilde (1854–1900) wrote *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

St Mary's House
Bramber. ***Tel*** *01903 816205.*
○ *May–Sep: Sun, Thu (pm), public hols.*

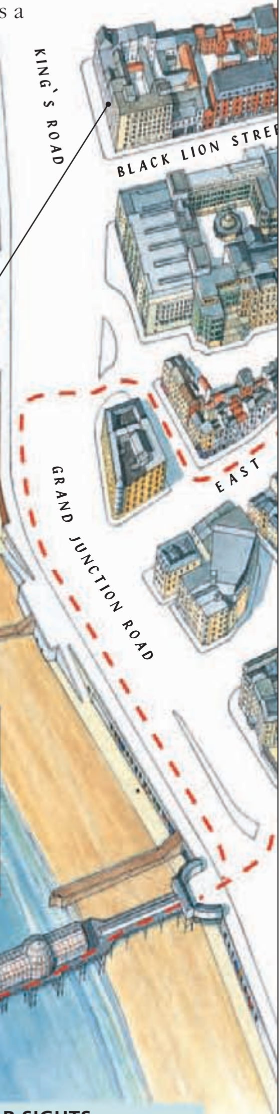
Street-by-Street: Brighton ⑬

A stick of Brighton rock

As the nearest south coast resort to London, Brighton is perennially popular, but has always been more refined than its boisterous neighbours further east, such as Margate *(see p183)* and Southend. The spirit of the Prince Regent *(see p179)* lives on, not only in the magnificence of his Royal Pavilion, but in the city's reputation as a venue for adulterous weekends in discreet hotels. Brighton has always attracted actors and artists – Laurence Olivier made his final home here.

Old Ship Hotel
Built in 1559, it was later bought by Nicholas Tettersells, with the money given to him by Charles II as a reward for taking him to France during the Civil War (see p52).

★ Brighton Pier
Built in 1899, this typical late-Victorian pier now caters for today's visitors with amusement arcades.



KEY

▬ ▬ ▬ Suggested route

STAR SIGHTS

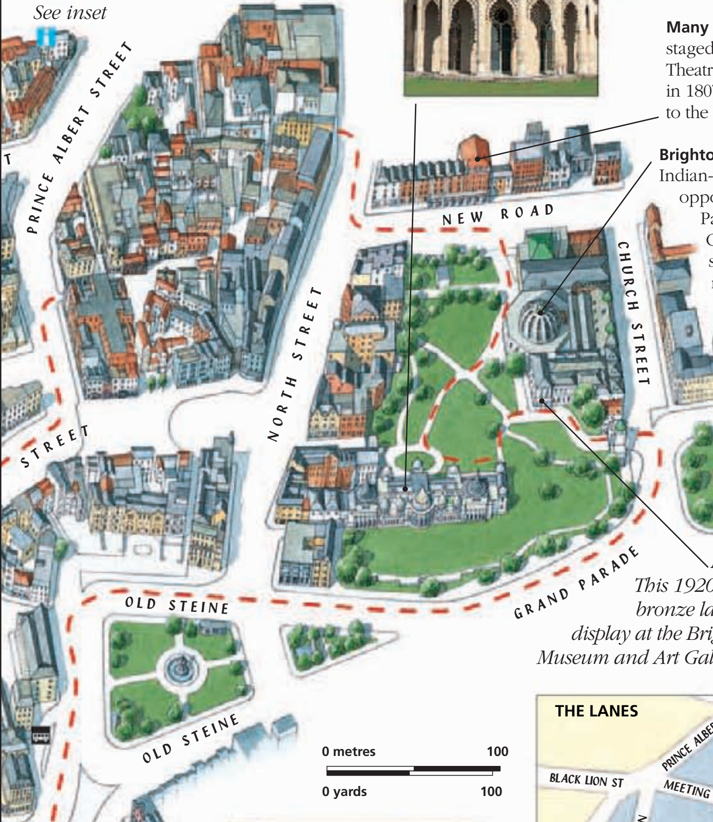
- ★ Brighton Pier
- ★ Royal Pavilion

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

East Sussex. 👥 249,000. 🚆 *Brighton Central.* 🚌 *Pool Valley.* ℹ *Royal Pavilion shop (0906 7112255).* ⛺ *Mon–Sat.* 🎭 *International Arts Festival: May.*

★ Royal Pavilion

The Prince Regent's fantastic Oriental palace helped turn Brighton into a fashionable resort, and is today its principal attraction.

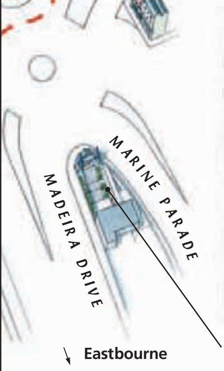

See inset
PRINCE ALBERT STREET
NORTH STREET
STREET
NEW ROAD
CHURCH STREET
GRAND PARADE
OLD STEINE
OLD STEINE
0 metres 100
0 yards 100

Many new plays are first staged in the charming Theatre Royal, established in 1807, before they move to the West End of London.

Brighton Dome, an Indian-style building opposite the Royal Pavilion and once George IV's stables, is now a major arts venue.

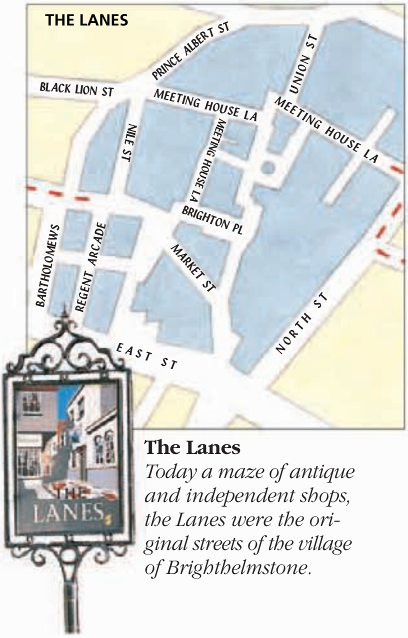
Art Deco

This 1920s Art Deco bronze lamp is on display at the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery.


MARINE PARADE
MADEIRA DRIVE
Eastbourne

Sea Life Centre

Built in 1872 as a menagerie, it became an aquarium in 1929. Don't miss the sharks and other British marine life.


THE LANES
PRINCE ALBERT ST
UNION ST
BLACK LION ST
MEETING HOUSE LA
MEETING HOUSE LA
NILE ST
MEETING HOUSE LA
BRIGHTON PL
BARTHOLOMEWS
REGENT ARCADE
MARKET ST
NORTH ST
EAST ST
THE LANES

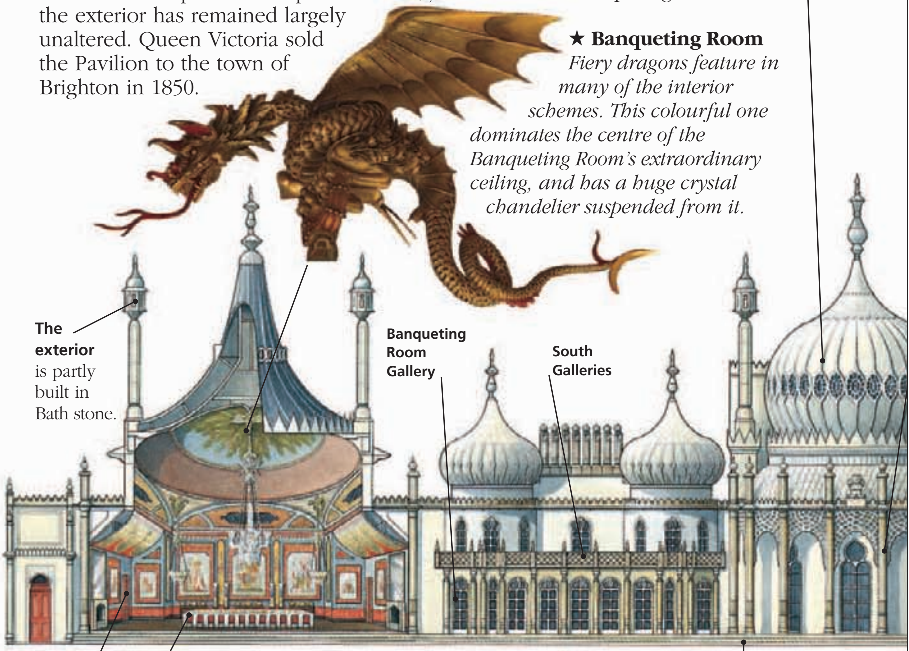
The Lanes

Today a maze of antique and independent shops, the Lanes were the original streets of the village of Brighthelmstone.

Brighton: Royal Pavilion

As sea bathing became fashionable in the mid-18th century, Brighton was transformed into England's first seaside resort. Its gaiety soon appealed to the rakish Prince of Wales, who became George IV in 1820. When, in 1785, he secretly married Mrs Fitzherbert, it was here that they conducted their liaison. He moved to a farmhouse near the shore and had it enlarged by Henry Holland *(see p28)*. As his parties grew more lavish, George needed a suitably extravagant setting for them, and in 1815 he employed John Nash *(see p105)* to transform the house into a lavish Oriental palace. Completed in 1823, the exterior has remained largely unaltered. Queen Victoria sold the Pavilion to the town of Brighton in 1850.

Central Dome
Nash adopted what he called the Hindu Style, as in this delicate tracery on one of the imposing turban domes.



★ Banqueting Room
Fiery dragons feature in many of the interior schemes. This colourful one dominates the centre of the Banqueting Room's extraordinary ceiling, and has a huge crystal chandelier suspended from it.

The exterior is partly built in Bath stone.

Banqueting Room Gallery

South Galleries

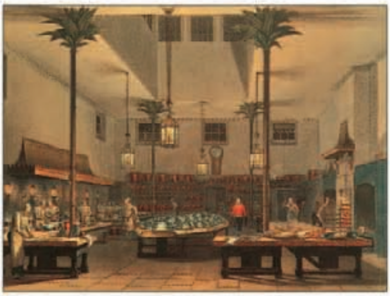
The banqueting table, which seats 24 people, is laid as for a splendid feast.

The eastern façade of the Pavilion

Standard Lamps
More dragons, along with dolphins and lotus flowers, figure on the Banqueting Room's eight original standard lamps, made of porcelain, ormolu and gilded wood.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Banqueting Room
- ★ Great Kitchen



★ Great Kitchen
The Prince's epic banquets required a kitchen of huge proportions. The vast ranges and long shelves of gleaming copper pans were used by famous chefs of the day.

◁ **Front façade of George IV's extravagant Royal Pavilion, Brighton**

Saloon
The original farmhouse that stood on the site was transformed into a villa by architect Henry Holland. The saloon, decorated with Chinese wallpaper, was the central room of the villa.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

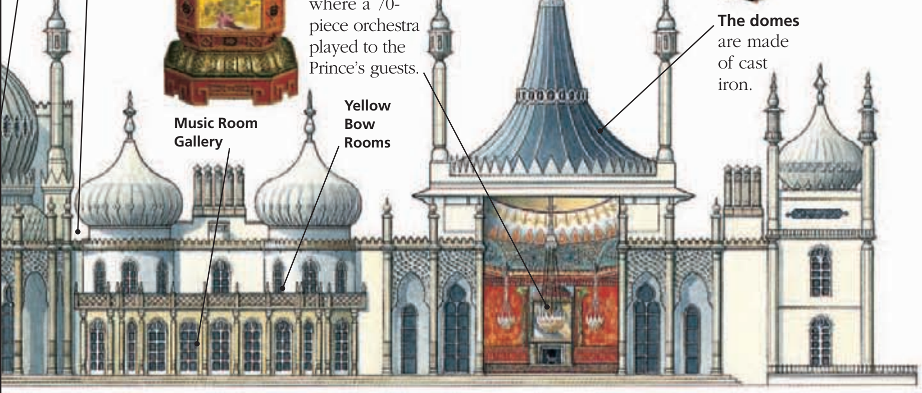
Old Steine, Brighton. ***Tel*** *03000 290290.* ○ *Apr–Sep: 9:30am–5:45pm; Oct–Mar: 10am–5:15pm (last adm: 45 mins before closing); daily.* ● *25, 26 Dec.* ♿ *limited.* **www.** brighton-hove-pavilion.org.uk

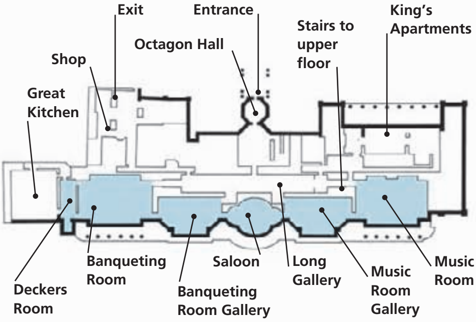
Long Gallery
Mandarin figures, which can nod their heads, line the pink and blue walls of this 49 m (162 ft) gallery.

Queen Victoria's Bedroom
This reproduction four-poster is on display in the upper floor apartments that were used by Queen Victoria (see pp56–7).

The Music Room, with its crimson and gold murals, was where a 70-piece orchestra played to the Prince's guests.

The domes are made of cast iron.

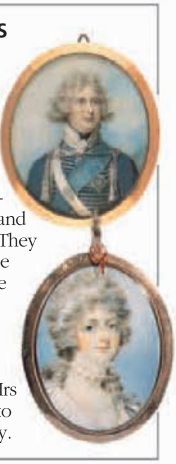

Music Room Gallery
Yellow Bow Rooms


Exit
Entrance
Stairs to upper floor
King's Apartments
Octagon Hall
Shop
Great Kitchen
Banqueting Room
Saloon
Long Gallery
Music Room Gallery
Music Room
Deckers Room
Banqueting Room Gallery

PLAN OF THE ROYAL PAVILION

Both Holland and Nash made additions and changes to the original farmhouse. The upper floor contains bedrooms, such as the Yellow Bow Rooms, which George's brothers used. The shaded areas represent the artwork above.

PRINCE OF WALES AND MRS FITZHERBERT



The Prince of Wales was only 23 years old when he fell in love with Maria Fitzherbert, a 29-year-old Catholic widow, and secretly married her. They lived in the farmhouse together and were the toast of Brighton society until George's official marriage took place to Caroline of Brunswick in 1795. Mrs Fitzherbert moved into a small house nearby.

Upstairs interior of Anne of Cleves House, Lewes

Lewes ⑭

East Sussex. 👥 *16,000.* 🚉
ℹ *187 High St (01273 483448).*
🎭 *Glyndebourne Festival: May–Aug.*

The ancient county town of Sussex was a vital strategic site for the Saxons, because of its high vantage point looking out over the coastline. William the Conqueror built a wooden castle here in 1067 but this was soon replaced by a large stone structure whose remains can be visited today.

In 1264 it was the site of a critical battle in which Simon de Montfort and his barons defeated Henry III, enabling them to establish the first English Parliament.

The Tudor **Anne of Cleves House** is a museum of local history, although Anne of Cleves, Henry VIII's fourth wife, never actually lived here.

On Guy Fawkes Night *(see p64)* lighted tar barrels are rolled to the river and various effigies, including of the Pope and Guy Fawkes, are burned. This commemorates the town's 17 Protestant martyrs burnt at the stake by Mary I *(see p51).*

Environs: Nearby are the 16th-century **Glynde Place**, a fine courtyard house, and the charming **Charleston**, home to the Bloomsbury Group *(see p163).*

🏛 Anne of Cleves House

Lewes. ***Tel*** *01273 474610.*
○ *Sun–Thu (Mar–Oct: phone for details).* ● *24–26 Dec.* 📷 🛍

🏰 Glynde Place

Lewes. ***Tel*** *01273 858224.* ○ *May–Aug: Wed, Sun, pub hols.* 📷 ☕ 🛍

🏰 Charleston

Lewes. ***Tel*** *01323 811265.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Wed–Sun, Bank Hol Mon.* 📷 🎧 ☕ 🛍 **www**.charleston.org.uk

Eastbourne ⑮

East Sussex. 👥 *93,000.* 🚉 🚌 ℹ
Cornfield Rd (0871 663 0031). 🛒
Tue, Sat. **www**.visiteastbourne.com

This Victorian seaside resort is a popular place for retirement, as well as a first-rate centre for touring the Downs. The South Downs Way *(see p37)* begins at **Beachy Head**, the spectacular 163 m (536 ft) chalk cliff just on the outskirts of the town. From here it is a bracing walk to the cliff top at Birling Gap, with views to the **Seven Sisters**, the chalk hills that end abruptly as they meet the sea.

Environs: To the west of Eastbourne is **Seven Sisters Country Park**, a 285 ha (700 acre) area of chalk cliffs and Downland marsh that is open all year. The **Park Visitor's Centre** contains information on the local area, history and geology.

Just north is the pretty village of **Alfriston**, with an ancient market cross and a 15th-century inn, **The Star**, in its quaint main street. Near the church is the 14th-century **Clergy House** that, in 1896, became the first National Trust property *(see p29)*. To the east is the huge prehistoric chalk carving, the **Long Man of Wilmington** *(see p221)*.

ℹ Park Visitor's Centre

Exceat, Seaford. ***Tel*** *01323 870280.*
○ *Apr–Oct: daily; Nov–Mar: Sat, Sun.* ● *25 Dec.* 🛍 ♿ 🍴

🏰 Clergy House

(NT) Alfriston. ***Tel*** *01323 870001.*
○ *Sat–Mon, Wed, Thu.*
● *Jan.* 📷 🛍

The lighthouse (1902) at the foot of Beachy Head, Eastbourne

The meandering River Cuckmere flowing through the South Downs to the beach at Cuckmere Haven

The Downs ⑯

East Sussex. 🚆 🚌 *Eastbourne.* ℹ *Cornfield Rd, Eastbourne (0871 663 0031).* **www**.visiteastbourne.com

The North and South Downs are parallel chalk ridges that run from east to west all the way across Kent, Sussex and Surrey, separated by the lower-lying and fertile Kent and Sussex Weald.

The smooth Downland hills are covered with springy turf, kept short by grazing sheep, making an ideal surface for walkers. The hill above the precipitous **Devil's Dyke,** just north of Brighton, offers spectacular views for miles across the Downs. The legend is that the Devil cut the gorge to let in the sea and flood the countryside, but was foiled by divine intervention. The River Cuckmere runs through one of the most picturesque parts of the South Downs.

Located at the highest point of the Downs is **Uppark House**. This neat square building has been meticulously restored to its mid-18th-century appearance after a fire in 1989.

Uppark House
(NT) Petersfield, West Sussex. ***Tel*** *01730 825857.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Sun–Thu (pm).* ♿ 🍴 🛍

Hastings ⑰

East Sussex. 👥 *83,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *Priory Meadow, Queens Square (0845 2741001).* **www**.visithastings.com

This fascinating seaside town was one of the first Cinque Ports *(see p182)* and is still a thriving fishing port. The town is characterized by the unique tall wooden "net shops" on the beach, where for hundreds of years fishermen have stored their nets. In the 19th century, the area to the west of the Old Town was built up as a seaside resort, which left the narrow, characterful streets of the old fishermen's quarter intact. There are two cliff railways and smugglers' caves displaying where contraband used to be stored *(see p280)*.

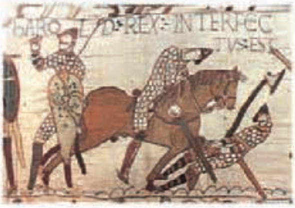
The wooden net shops, on Hastings' shingle beach

Environs: Seven miles (11 km) from Hastings is Battle. The centre square of this small town is dominated by the gatehouse of **Battle Abbey**. William the Conqueror built this on the site of his great victory, reputedly placing the high altar where Harold fell, But the abbey was destroyed in the Dissolution *(see p50)*. There is an evocative walk around the actual battlefield.

Battle Abbey
(EH) *High St, Battle.* ***Tel*** *01424 775705.* ○ *daily: Easter–Sep: 10am–6pm; Oct–Easter: 10am–4pm.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🛍

BATTLE OF HASTINGS

In 1066, William the Conqueror's *(see p47)* invading army from Normandy landed on the south coast, aiming to take Winchester and London. Hearing that King Harold and his army were camped just inland from Hastings, William confronted them. He won the battle after Harold was mortally wounded by an arrow in his eye. This last successful invasion of England is depicted on the *Bayeux Tapestry* in Normandy, France.



King Harold's death, *Bayeux Tapestry*

The fairy-tale 14th-century Bodiam Castle surrounded by its moat

Bodiam Castle ⑱

(NT) Nr Robertsbridge, E Sussex. ***Tel*** *01580 830196.* 🚆 *Robertsbridge then taxi.* ○ *mid-Feb–Oct: daily; Nov–23 Dec: Wed–Sun; 27 Dec–mid-Feb: Sat, Sun.* ● *24–26 Dec.* ▨ ♿ *ltd.* ☕ 🛍

Surrounded by its wide, glistening moat, this late 14th-century castle is one of the most romantic in England.

It was previously thought to have been built as a defence against French invasion, but is now believed to have been intended as a home for a Sussex knight. The castle saw action during the Civil War *(see p52),* when it was damaged in an assault by Parliamentary soldiers. They removed the roof to reduce its use as a base for Charles I's troops. It has been uninhabited since, but its grey stone has proved indestructible. With the exception of the roof, it was restored in 1919 by Lord Curzon who gave it to the nation.

Environs: To the east is **Great Dixter**, a 15th-century manor house restored by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1910. The late Christopher Lloyd created a magnificent garden with a blend of terraces and borders, and a great nursery, too.

🏛 Great Dixter
Northiam, Rye. ***Tel*** *01797 252878.*
○ *Apr–Oct: 2–5:30pm Tue–Sun & public hols.* ▨ 🛍
www.greatdixter.co.uk

Rye ⑲

See pp184–5.

Romney Marsh ⑳

Kent. 🚆 *Ashford.* 🚌 *Ashford, Hythe.* ℹ *Dymchurch Rd, New Romney (01797 369487).* ○ *Feb–Dec.*

Until Roman times Romney Marsh and its southern neighbour Walland Marsh were entirely covered by the sea at high tide. The Romans drained the Romney section, and Walland Marsh was gradually reclaimed during the Middle Ages. Together they formed a large area of fertile land, particularly suitable for the Romney Marsh sheep bred for the quality of their wool.

Dungeness, a desolate and lonely spot at the southeastern tip of the area, is dominated by a lighthouse and two nuclear power stations. It is also the southern terminus of

COASTAL DEFENCE AND THE CINQUE PORTS

Before the Norman Conquest *(see pp46–7)*, national government was weak and, with threats from Europe, it was important for Saxon kings to keep on good terms with the Channel ports. So, in return for keeping the royal fleet supplied with ships and men, five ports – Hastings, Romney, Hythe, Sandwich and Dover – were granted the right to levy taxes; others were added later. "Cinque" came from the old French word for five. The privileges were revoked during the 17th century. In 1803, in response to the growing threat from France, 74 fixed defences were built along the coast. Only 24 of these Martello towers still exist.

The cliff-top position of Dover Castle

A Martello tower, built as part of the Channel's defences

the popular **Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway** which was opened in 1927. During the summer this takes passengers 14 miles (23 km) up the coast to Hythe on trains a third the conventional size.

The northern edge of the marsh is crossed by the Royal Military Canal, built to serve both as a defence and supply line in 1804, when it was feared Napoleon was planning an invasion *(see p55)*.

The Kent Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre explores the history of the Marsh and its wildlife. For more information visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

Dover ㉑

Kent. 👥 *30,000.* 🚆 🚌 ⛴
ℹ *Old Town Gaol, Biggin St (01304 205108).* 🛒 *Sat.*
www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk

Its proximity to the European mainland makes Dover the leading port for cross-Channel travel. Its famous white cliffs exert a strong pull on returning travellers.

Dover's strategic position and large natural harbour mean the town has always had an important role to play in the nation's defences.

Built on the original site of an ancient Saxon fortification, **Dover Castle**, has helped defend the town from 1198, when Henry II first built the keep, right up to World War II, when it was used as the command post for the Dunkirk evacuation. Exhibits in the castle and in the labyrinth of tunnels beneath made by prisoners in the Napoleonic Wars *(see p55)* cover all these periods.

Environs: One of the most significant sites in England's early history is the ruin of **Richborough Roman Fort**. Now a large grassy site two miles (3 km) inland, this was where, in AD 43, Claudius's Roman invaders *(see p44)* made their first landing. For hundreds of years afterwards, Rutupiae, as it was known, was one of the most important ports of entry and military bases in the country.

Dover Castle
(EH) Castle Hill. ***Tel*** *01304 211067.* ○ *daily (Nov–Jan: Thu–Mon).* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ✋ ☞ *of the tunnels, by appt.* ☕ 🛍

Richborough Roman Fort
(EH) Richborough. ***Tel*** *01304 612 013.* ○ *Apr–Sep: daily.* ✋ ♿ 🛍

Visitors relaxing on Margate's popular sandy beach

Margate ㉒

Kent. 👥 *40,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *12–13 The Parade (0870 2646111).* **www**.visitthanet.co.uk

A boisterous seaside resort on the Isle of Thanet, Margate has long been a popular destination. Nowadays **The Turner Centre** is the big draw, both architecturally and for its exhibitons, including a look at Turner's fascination with light.

Environs: Just south is a 19th-century gentleman's residence, **Quex House**, which has two unusual towers in its grounds. The adjoining museum has a fine collection of African and Oriental art, as well as unique dioramas of tropical wildlife. To the west is a Saxon church, built within the remains of the bleak Roman coastal fort of **Reculver**. Dramatic twin towers, known as the Two Sisters, were added to the church in the 12th century. The church now stands at the centre of a very pleasant, if rather windy, 37 ha (91 acre) camp site.

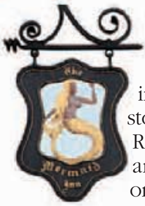
The Turner Centre
17–18 The Stone Pier. ***Tel*** *01843 280 261.* ○ *Wed–Sun.* ☕ 🛍
www.turnercontemporary.org

Quex House
Birchington. ***Tel*** *01843 842168.* ○ *Easter–Oct: Sun–Thu.* **House** ○ *pm only.* ✋ ♿ ☞ *for groups.* 🍴 🛍

Reculver Fort
(EH) Reculver. ***Tel*** *01227 740 676 (Herne Bay Tourist Information).* ○ *daily (exterior only).*

A drainage dyke running through the fertile plains of Romney Marsh

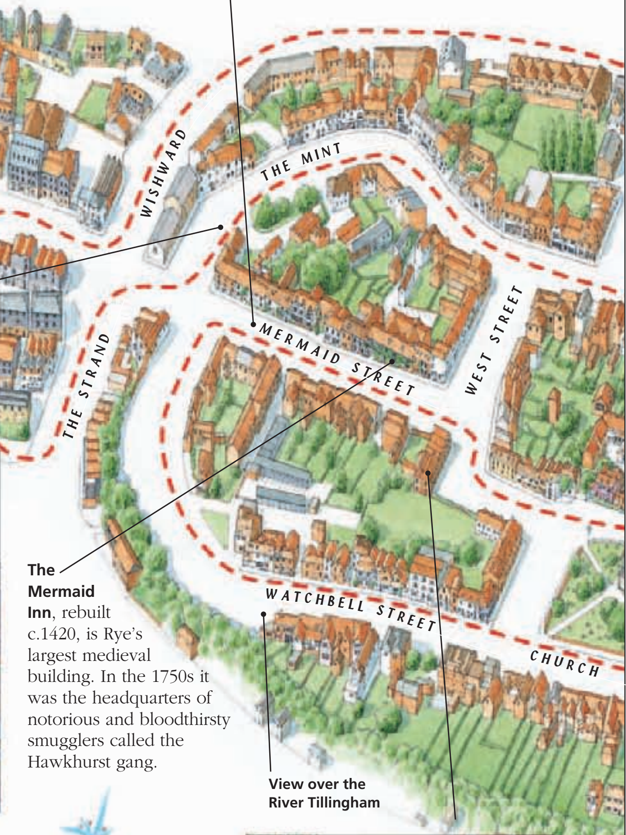
Street-by-Street: Rye ⓳



The Mermaid Inn sign

This ancient and charming fortified town was added to the original Cinque ports *(see p182)* in the 12th–13th century. A huge storm in 1287 diverted the River Rother so that it met the sea at Rye, and for more than 300 years it was one of the most important Channel ports. However, in the 16th century the harbour began to silt up and the town is now 2 miles (3 km) inland. Rye was frequently attacked by the French, culminating in 1377 when it was burnt to the ground.

★ Mermaid Street
This delightful cobbled street, its huddled houses jutting out at unlikely angles, has hardly altered since it was rebuilt in the 14th century.



The Mint
Site of 12th-century Mint in the time of King Stephen.

The Mermaid Inn, rebuilt c.1420, is Rye's largest medieval building. In the 1750s it was the headquarters of notorious and bloodthirsty smugglers called the Hawkhurst gang.

View over the River Tillingham

Strand Quay
The brick and timber warehouses survive from the prosperous days when Rye was a thriving port.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Mermaid Street
- ★ Ypres Tower

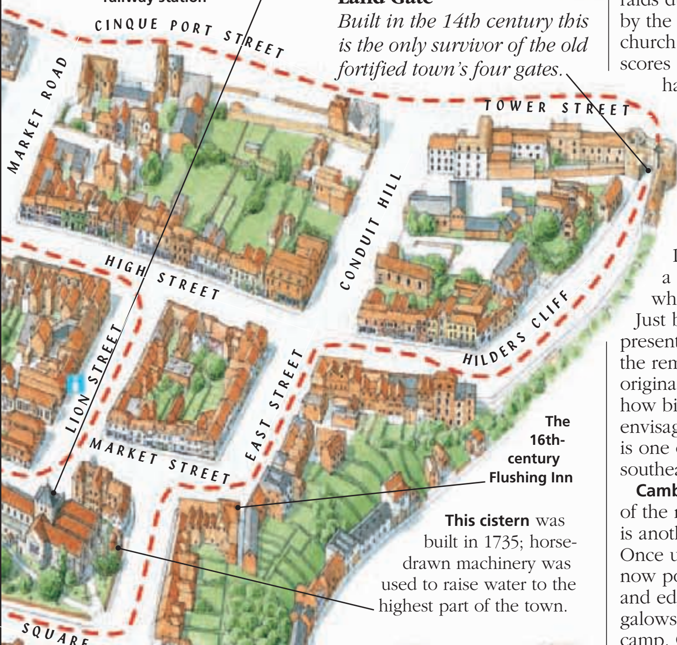
Lamb House
This fine Georgian house was built in 1722. George I stayed here when stranded in a storm, and author Henry James (1843–1916) lived here.

St Mary's Church
The turret clock (1561) is claimed to be the oldest working clock in the country.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

East Sussex. 👥 *4,500.* 🚆 🚌 *Station Approach.* ℹ *4/5 Lion Street (01797 229049).* 🛒 *Wed, Thu.* 🎭 *Rye Festival: Sep.* **www**.visitrye.co.uk

Land Gate
Built in the 14th century this is the only survivor of the old fortified town's four gates.



Hastings and railway station

The 16th-century Flushing Inn

This cistern was built in 1735; horse-drawn machinery was used to raise water to the highest part of the town.

Gun Garden, Ypres Tower

★ Ypres Tower
Built as a castle in 1250, it was turned into a house in 1430. It is now used as the museum.

KEY

▬ ▬ ▬ Suggested route

0 metres 50

0 yards 50

Environs: Just 2 miles (3 km) to the south of Rye is the small town of **Winchelsea**. At the behest of Edward I, it was moved to its present position in 1288, when most of the old town on lower land to the southeast, was drowned by the same storm that diverted the River Rother in 1287.

Winchelsea is probably Britain's first coherently planned medieval town. Although not all of it was built as originally planned, its rectangular grid survives today, as does the **Church of St Thomas Becket** (begun c.1300) at its centre. Several raids during the 14th century by the French damaged the church and burned down scores of houses. The church has three tombs, and there are also two well-preserved medieval tombs in the chantry. The three windows (1928–33) in the Lady Chapel were designed by Douglas Strachan as a memorial to those who died in World War I.

Just beyond the edges of present-day Winchelsea are the remains of three of the original gates – showing just how big a town was first envisaged. The beach below is one of the finest on the southeast coast.

Camber Sands, to the east of the mouth of the Rother, is another excellent beach. Once used by fishermen, it is now popular with swimmers and edged with seaside bungalows and a bustling holiday camp. Camber Sands is also a favourite spot in the UK for kite- and windsurfing.

The ruins of **Camber Castle** are west of the sands, near Brede Lock, Rye. This was one of the forts built along this coast by Henry VIII when he feared an attack by the French. When the castle was built it was on the edge of the sea but it was abandoned in 1642 when it became stranded inland as the river silted up.

🏛 Camber Castle
(EH) Camber, Rye.
Tel *01797 223862.* ○ *Jul–Sep: Sat, Sun pm for* 🗣 *only.*

Jesus on Christ Church Gate, Canterbury Cathedral

Canterbury ㉓

Kent. 👥 *50,000.* 🚂 🚌 ℹ *Sun St, Buttermarket (01227 378100).* ⊖ *Wed, Fri.* **www**.canterbury.co.uk

Its position on the London to Dover route meant Canterbury was an important Roman town even before the arrival of St Augustine in 597, sent by the pope to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. The town rose in importance, soon becoming the centre of the Christian Church in England.

With the building of the **cathedral** and the martyrdom of Thomas Becket *(see p48),* Canterbury's future as a religious centre was assured. Today, the town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Adjacent to the ruins of **St Augustine's Abbey**, destroyed in the Dissolution *(see p50),* is **St Martin's Church**, the oldest in England. This was where St Augustine first worshipped and it has impressive Norman and Saxon work.

West Gate Museum, with its round towers, is an imposing medieval gatehouse. It was built in 1381 and contains a display of arms and armoury.

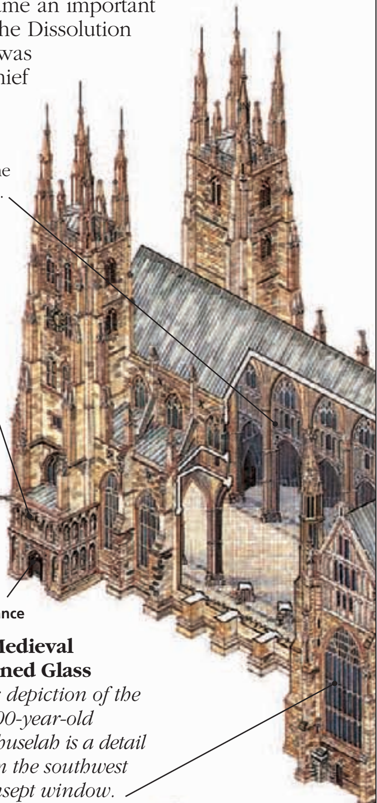
The Poor Priests' Hospital, founded in the 12th century, is now the **Museum of Canterbury**.

🏛 **West Gate Museum**
St Peter's St. ***Tel*** *01227 789576.*
○ *Sat.* ● *1 Jan, Good Fri, 24–28 Dec.* ♿ 🛍

🏛 **Museum of Canterbury**
Stour St. ***Tel*** *01227 475202.* ○ *Jun–Sep: daily; Oct–May: Mon–Sat.* ♿ 🛍
www.canterbury-museums.co.uk

Canterbury Cathedral

To match Canterbury's growing ecclesiastical rank as a major centre of Christianity, the first Norman archbishop, Lanfranc, ordered a new cathedral to be built on the ruins of the Anglo-Saxon cathedral in 1070. It was enlarged and rebuilt many times and as a result embraces examples of all styles of medieval architecture. The most poignant moment in its history came in 1170 when Thomas Becket was murdered here *(see p48).* Four years after his death a fire devastated the cathedral and the Trinity Chapel was built to house Becket's remains. The shrine quickly became an important religious site and until the Dissolution *(see p50)* the cathedral was one of Christendom's chief places of pilgrimage.



The nave at 60 m (188 ft) makes Canterbury one of the longest medieval churches.

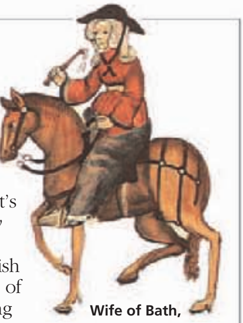
The South West Porch (1426) may have been built to commemorate the victory at Agincourt *(see p49).*

Main entrance

★ Medieval Stained Glass
This depiction of the 1,000-year-old Methuselah is a detail from the southwest transept window.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Considered to be the first great English poet, Geoffrey Chaucer (c.1345–1400), a customs official by profession, wrote a rumbustious and witty account of a group of pilgrims travelling from London to Becket's shrine in 1387 in the *Canterbury Tales*. The pilgrims represent a cross-section of 14th-century English society and the tales remain one of the greatest and most entertaining works of early English literature.

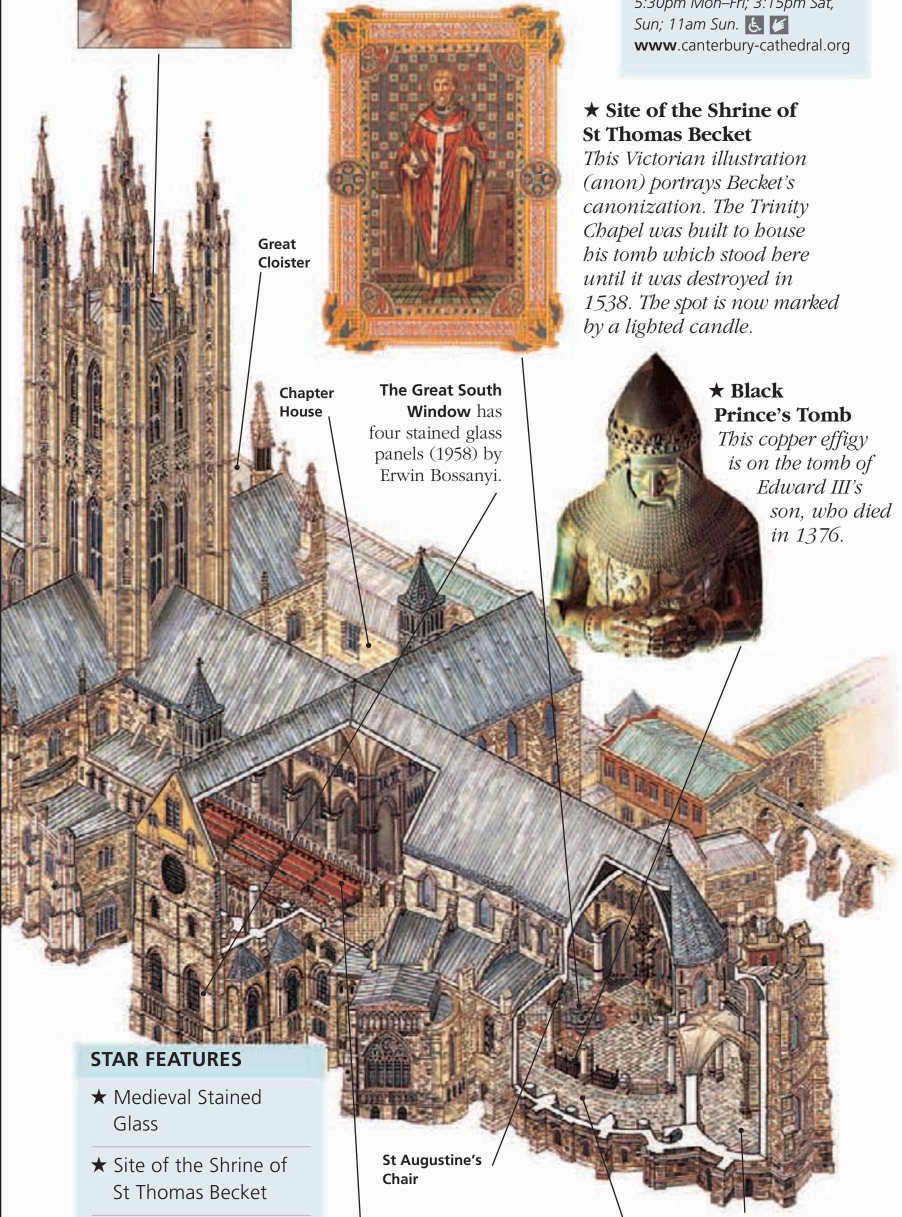


Wife of Bath, *Canterbury Tales*

Bell Harry Tower
The central tower, dominating the skyline, was built in 1498 to house a bell donated by Henry of Eastry 100 years before. The fan vaulting is a superb example of the late Perpendicular style.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

11 The Precincts, Canterbury. ***Tel*** *01227 762862.* ○ *9am–4:30pm Mon–Sat, 12:30–2pm Sun. Contact advised.* ● *for services & concerts; Good Friday, 24 & 25 Dec.* 🎫 ✝ *8am daily; 5:30pm Mon–Fri; 3:15pm Sat, Sun; 11am Sun.* ♿ 🖐 **www**.canterbury-cathedral.org



★ Site of the Shrine of St Thomas Becket
This Victorian illustration (anon) portrays Becket's canonization. The Trinity Chapel was built to house his tomb which stood here until it was destroyed in 1538. The spot is now marked by a lighted candle.

★ Black Prince's Tomb
This copper effigy is on the tomb of Edward III's son, who died in 1376.

Great Cloister

Chapter House

The Great South Window has four stained glass panels (1958) by Erwin Bossanyi.

St Augustine's Chair

The quire (choir), completed in 1184, is one of the longest in England.

Trinity Chapel

The circular Corona Chapel

STAR FEATURES

- ★ Medieval Stained Glass
- ★ Site of the Shrine of St Thomas Becket
- ★ Black Prince's Tomb

The keep of Rochester Castle, dominating Rochester and the Medway Valley

Leeds Castle ㉔

Maidstone, Kent. **Tel** *01622 765400.* 🚆 *Bearsted then bus.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *for concerts & 25 Dec.* ▨ ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.leeds-castle.com

Surrounded by a lake that reflects the warm buff stone of its crenellated turrets, Leeds is often considered to be the most beautiful castle in England. Begun in the early 12th century, it has been continuously inhabited and its present appearance is a result of centuries of rebuilding and extensions, most recently in the 1930s. Leeds has royal connections going back to 1278, when it was given to Edward I by a courtier seeking favour.

Henry VIII loved the castle and visited it often, escaping from the plague in London. It contains a life-sized bust of Henry from the late 16th century. Leeds passed out of royal ownership when Edward VI gave it to Sir Anthony St Leger in 1552 as a reward for helping to pacify the Irish.

Rochester ㉕

Kent. 👥 *145,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *95 High Street (01634 843666).*

Clustered at the mouth of the River Medway are the towns of Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham, all rich in naval history, but none more so than Rochester, which occupied a strategic site on the London to Dover road.

England's tallest Norman keep is at **Rochester Castle**, worth climbing for the views over the Medway. The town's medieval history is still visible, with the original city walls – which followed the lines of the Roman fortifications – on view in the High Street, and some well-preserved wall paintings in the **cathedral**, built in 1088.

Environs: In Chatham, the **Historic Dockyard** is now a museum of shipbuilding and nautical crafts. **Fort Amherst** nearby was built in 1756 to protect the dockyard and river entrance from attack, and has 1,800 m (5,570 ft) of tunnels to explore that were hewn by Napoleonic prisoners of war.

Rochester Castle
Castle Hill. **Tel** *01634 402276.* ○ *10am–4pm (5pm Apr–Sep) daily (last adm: 45 mins before close).* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ▨ ♿ *grounds only.* 🛍

A gladiator, Knole

🏛 **Historic Dockyard**
Dock Rd, Chatham. **Tel** *01634 823807.* ○ *mid-Feb–Oct: daily; Nov–mid-Feb: call for details.* ▨ ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍

Fort Amherst
Dock Rd, Chatham. **Tel** *01634 847747.* ○ *call for details.* ▨ ☕

Knole ㉖

(NT) Sevenoaks, Kent. **Tel** *01732 450608.* 🚆 *Sevenoaks then taxi.* **House** ○ *Mar–Jul: Wed–Sun (pm); Aug: Tue–Sun; Sep–Oct: Wed–Sun (pm), Good Fri & pub hols.* **Park** ○ *daily.* ▨ ♿ *ltd.* ✓ *by appt.* ☕ 🛍

This huge Tudor mansion was built in the late 15th century, and was seized by Henry VIII from the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Dissolution *(see p50).* In 1566 Queen Elizabeth I gave it to her cousin Thomas Sackville. His descendants have lived here ever since, including the writer Vita Sackville-West, (1892–1962). The house is well known for its 17th-century furniture, such as the elaborate bed made for James II. The 405-ha (1,000-acre) park has deer and lovely walks.

Environs: A small manor house, **Ightham Mote**, east of Knole, is one of the finest examples of English medieval architecture. Its 14th-century timber-and-stone building

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp563–565 and pp615–618

encloses a central court and is encircled by a moat.

At **Sissinghurst Castle Garden** are gardens created by Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson in the 1930s.

🏛 Ightham Mote
(NT) Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks. ***Tel*** *01732 811145.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Thu–Mon; Nov & Dec: Thu–Sun.* 📷 ♿ 🍴 🛍

🍁 Sissinghurst Castle Garden
(NT) Cranbrook. ***Tel*** *01580 710701.* ○ *mid-Mar–Oct: 11am–6:30pm Fri–Tue.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🍴 ☕ 🛍

The façade of Chartwell, Winston Churchill's home

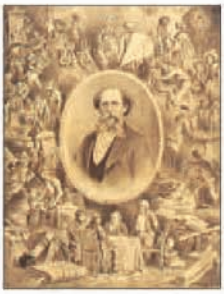
Hever Castle ㉗

Edenbridge, Kent. ***Tel*** *01732 865224.* 🚉 *Edenbridge Town.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily (Thu–Sun Nov, Dec, Mar).* **Gardens** *11am–6pm;* **Castle** *noon–6pm.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🍴 ✋ *groups by arrangement.* 🛍 **www**.hever-castle.co.uk

This small, moated castle is famous as the 16th-century home of Anne Boleyn, the doomed wife of Henry VIII, executed for adultery. She lived here as a young woman and the king often visited her while staying at Leeds Castle. In 1903 Hever was bought by William Waldorf Astor, who undertook a restoration programme, building a Neo-Tudor village alongside it to accommodate guests and servants. The moat and gatehouse date from around 1270.

Environs: To the northwest of Hever is **Chartwell**, the family home of Sir Winston Churchill *(see p59)*. It remains furnished as it was when he lived here. Some 140 of his paintings are on display.

🏛 Chartwell
(NT) Westerham, Kent. ℹ *01732 866368.* ○ *mid-Mar–Jun, Sep–Nov: 11am–5pm Wed–Sun & public hols; Jul–Aug: 11am–5pm Tue–Sun & public hols.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🍴 🛍



CHARLES DICKENS

Charles Dickens (1812–70), a popular writer in his own time, is still widely read today. He was born in Portsmouth but moved to Chatham aged five. As an adult, Dickens lived in London but kept up his Kent connections, taking holidays in Broadstairs, just south of Margate – where he wrote *David Copperfield* – and spending his last years at Gad's Hill, near Rochester. The town celebrates the famous connection with an annual Dickens festival.

Royal Tunbridge Wells ㉘

Kent. 👥 *55,000.* 🚉 🚌 ℹ *Old Fish Market, The Pantiles (01892 515 675).* 🛒 *Sat.* **www**.visittunbridgewells.com

Helped by royal patronage, the town became a popular spa in the 17th and 18th centuries after mineral springs were discovered in 1606. The Pantiles – the colonnaded and paved promenade – was laid out in the 1700s.

Environs: Nearby is a superb manor house, **Penshurst Place**. Built in the 1340s, it has an 18-m- (60-ft-) high Great Hall.

🏛 Penshurst Place
Tonbridge, Kent. ***Tel*** *01892 870307.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily; Mar: Sat, Sun:* **House** *noon–4pm;* **Gardens** *10:30am–6pm;* **Toy Museum** *noon–5pm.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🍴 ☕ 🛍

An early 18th-century astrolabe to measure the stars, Hever Castle garden

EAST ANGLIA

NORFOLK · SUFFOLK · ESSEX · CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The bulge of land between the Thames Estuary and the Wash, flat but far from featureless, sits aside from the main north – south axis through Britain, and for that reason it has succeeded in maintaining and preserving its distinctive architecture, traditions and rural character in both cities and countryside.

East Anglia's name derives from the Angles, the people from northern Germany who settled here during the 5th and 6th centuries. East Anglians have long been a breed of plain-spoken and independent people. Two prominent East Anglians – Queen Boadicea in the 1st century and Oliver Cromwell in the 17th century – were famous for their stubbornness and their refusal to bow to constituted authority. During the Civil War, East Anglia was Cromwell's most reliable source of support. The hardy people who made a difficult living hunting and fishing in the swampy fens, which were drained in the 17th century, were called the Fen Tigers. After draining, the peaty soil proved ideal for arable farming, and today East Anglia grows about a third of Britain's vegetables. The rotation of crops, heralding Britain's agricultural revolution, was perfected in Norfolk in the 18th century. Many of the region's towns and cities grew prosperous on the agricultural wealth, including Norwich. The sea also plays a prominent role in East Anglian life. Coastal towns and villages support the many fishermen who use the North Sea, rich in herring in former days but now known mainly for flat fish.

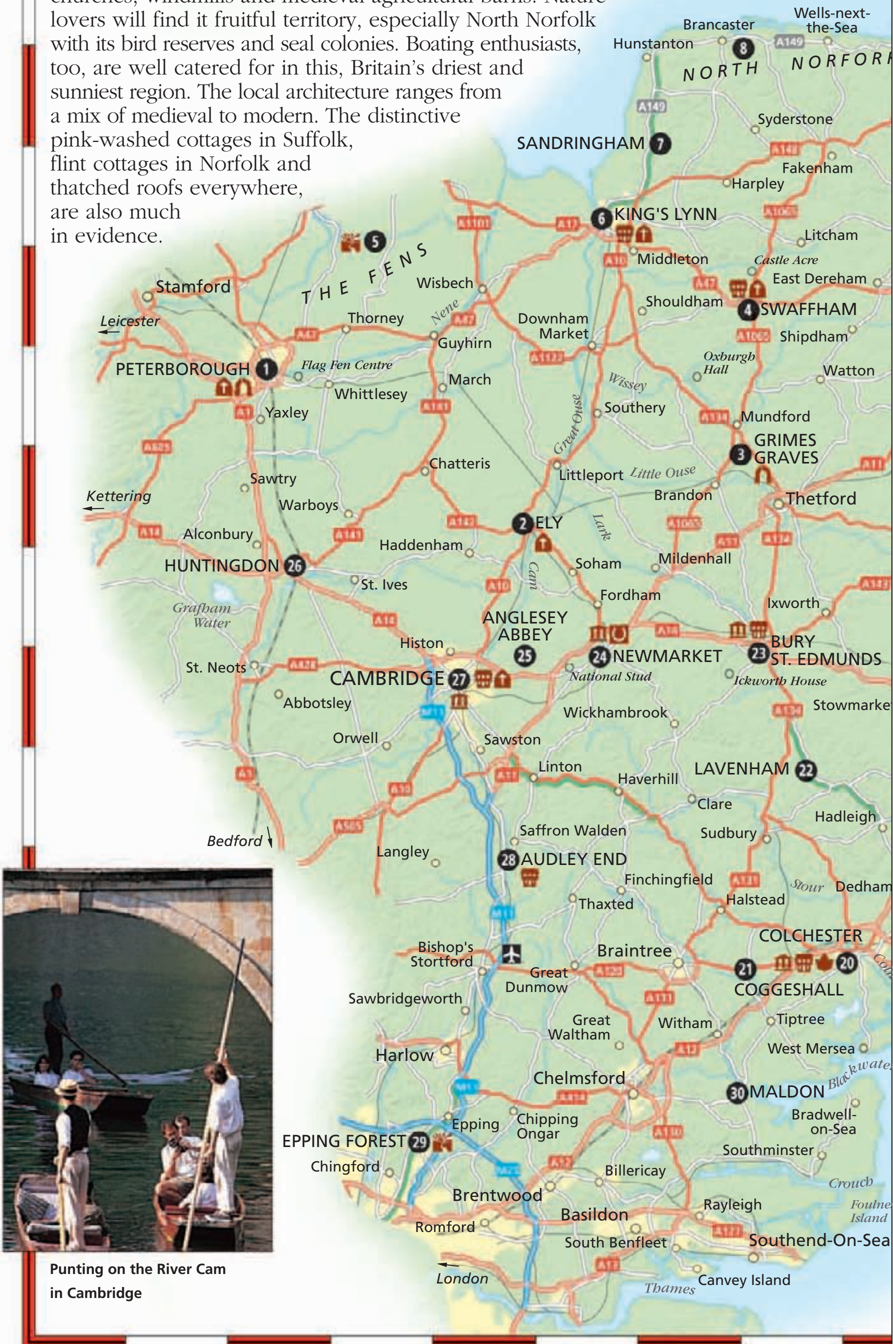
In modern times, the area has become a centre of recreational sailing, both off the coast and on the inland waterway system known as the Norfolk Broads. East Anglia is also home to one of Britain's top universities: Cambridge.

Lavender fields in full bloom in July, Heacham, Norfolk

◁ **Cley windmill overlooking the sea marshes on the north Norfolk coast**

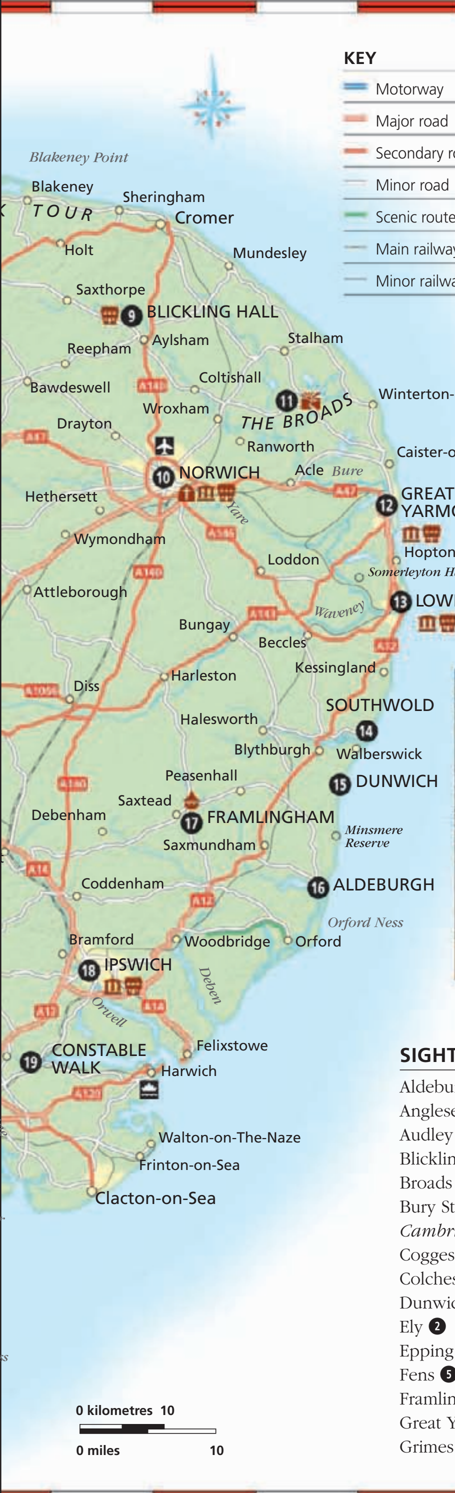
Exploring East Anglia

As you move away from London, you soon reach the countryside immortalized by the painter Constable *(see p204)*, scattered with churches, windmills and medieval agricultural barns. Nature lovers will find it fruitful territory, especially North Norfolk with its bird reserves and seal colonies. Boating enthusiasts, too, are well catered for in this, Britain's driest and sunniest region. The local architecture ranges from a mix of medieval to modern. The distinctive pink-washed cottages in Suffolk, flint cottages in Norfolk and thatched roofs everywhere, are also much in evidence.



Brancaster
Wells-next-the-Sea
Hunstanton
8
A149
NORTH NORFOLK
Syderstone
SANDRINGHAM 7
A148
Fakenham
Harpley
6 KING'S LYNN
A1065
Litcham
5
THE FENS
A1101
A17
A10
Middleton
Castle Acre
East Dereham
Stamford
Wisbech
A47
Shouldham
4 SWAFFHAM
Leicester
Thorney
Nene
Downham Market
Guyhirn
A1065
Shipdham
PETERBOROUGH 1
Flag Fen Centre
A1122
Oxburgh Hall
Watton
Whittlesey
March
Wissey
Yaxley
A1
A141
Southery
Great Ouse
A134
Mundford
A605
3 GRIMES GRAVES
Chatteris
Littleport
Little Ouse
A11
Sawtry
Brandon
Kettering
Warboys
Thetford
A14
Alconbury
A142
2 ELY
Lark
A1065
HUNTINGDON 26
Haddenham
A141
Soham
Mildenhall
A11
A1088
A143
St. Ives
Cam
A10
Fordham
Ixworth
Grafham Water
A14
ANGLESEY ABBEY
A14
Histon
25
24 NEWMARKET
23 BURY ST. EDMUNDS
St. Neots
A428
CAMBRIDGE 27
National Stud
Ickworth House
Abbotsley
M11
Wickhambrook
A134
Stowmarket
Orwell
Sawston
A1
Linton
LAVENHAM 22
A10
A11
Haverhill
Clare
Hadleigh
A505
Saffron Walden
Sudbury
Bedford
Langley
28 AUDLEY END
Finchingfield
A131
Stour
Dedham
Thaxted
Halstead
M11
COLCHESTER
Bishop's Stortford
Braintree
21
20
Great Dunmow
A120
COGGESHALL
Sawbridgeworth
A131
Great Waltham
Witham
Tiptree
A12
West Mersea
Harlow
Blackwater
M11
Chelmsford
30 MALDON
A414
Bradwell-on-Sea
Epping
Chipping Ongar
EPPING FOREST 29
A130
Southminster
Chingford
A12
M25
Billericay
Crouch
Brentwood
Rayleigh
Foulness Island
Basildon
Romford
A127
Southend-On-Sea
South Benfleet
A13
London
Canvey Island
Thames

Punting on the River Cam in Cambridge


KEY
Motorway
Major road
Secondary road
Minor road
Scenic route
Main railway
Minor railway
Blakeney Point
Blakeney
TOUR
Sheringham
Cromer
Holt
Mundesley
Saxthorpe
⑨ BLICKLING HALL
Aylsham
Reepham
Stalham
Bawdeswell
Coltishall
Wroxham
⑪ THE BROADS
Winterton-on-Sea
Drayton
Ranworth
Caister-on-Sea
⑩ NORWICH
Acle
Bure
Hethersett
Yare
⑫ GREAT YARMOUTH
Wymondham
Loddon
Hopton
Somerleyton Hall
Attleborough
⑬ LOWESTOFT
Waveney
Bungay
Beccles
Kessingland
Diss
Harleston
SOUTHWOLD ⑭
Halesworth
Blythburgh
Walberswick
Peasenhall
⑮ DUNWICH
Saxtead
Debenham
⑰ FRAMLINGHAM
Minsmere Reserve
Saxmundham
⑯ ALDEBURGH
Coddenham
Orford Ness
Bramford
Woodbridge
Orford
⑱ IPSWICH
Deben
Orwell
⑲ CONSTABLE WALK
Felixstowe
Harwich
Walton-on-The-Naze
Frinton-on-Sea
Clacton-on-Sea
A140
A47
A146
A143
A1066
A12
A14
A120
0 kilometres 10
0 miles 10

GETTING AROUND

The region's more isolated sights can be very difficult to reach by public transport and, for a few people, car rental may be a cheaper and more efficient method of travelling around. The M11 motorway runs from London to Cambridge. The coast road from Aldeburgh to King's Lynn takes you through some of the best countryside in the area. There are frequent mainline trains to Norwich, Ipswich and Cambridge although the local trains are more sporadic. There are international and domestic airports at Stansted *(see p682)* and Norwich.

SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp565–7
- ***Where to Eat*** pp618–20

Beach huts on Wells-next-the-Sea beach, north Norfolk

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Aldeburgh ⑯
Anglesey Abbey ㉕
Audley End ㉘
Blickling Hall ⑨
Broads ⑪
Bury St Edmunds ㉓
Cambridge pp210-15 ㉗
Coggeshall ㉑
Colchester ⑳
Dunwich ⑮
Ely ②
Epping Forest ㉙
Fens ⑤
Framlingham Castle ⑰
Great Yarmouth ⑫
Grimes Graves ③
Huntingdon ㉖
Ipswich ⑱
King's Lynn ⑥
Lavenham ㉒
Lowestoft ⑬
Maldon ㉚
Newmarket ㉔
Norwich ⑩
Peterborough ①
Sandringham ⑦
Southwold ⑭
Swaffham ④

Walks and Tours

Constable Walk ⑲
North Norfolk Tour ⑧

Peterborough ❶

Cambridgeshire. 👥 *156,000.*
🚆 🚌 ℹ *9 Bridge Street (01733 452336).* 🛒 *Tue–Sat.*
www.visitpeterborough.com

Although one of the oldest settlements in Britain, Peterborough was designated a New Town in 1967, and is now a mixture of ancient and modern.

The city centre is dominated by the 12th-century **St Peter's Cathedral** which gave the city its name. The interior of this classic Norman building, with its vast yet simple nave, was badly damaged by Cromwell's troops *(see p52),* but its unique painted wooden ceiling (1220) has survived intact. Catherine of Aragon, the first wife of Henry VIII, is buried here, although Cromwell's troops also destroyed her tomb.

Peterborough's coat of arms with a Latin inscription: Upon this Rock

Environs: The oldest wheel in Britain (1,300 BC) was found preserved in peat at **Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre**. The site provides a fascinating glimpse into prehistory.

Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre
The Droveway, Northey Rd.
Tel *01733 313414.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Tue–Sun, public hols.* 🎧 ♿ ☞ ☕
www.flagfen.com

Grimes Graves ❸

(EH) Lynford, Norfolk. ***Tel*** *01842 810656.* 🚆 *Brandon then taxi.*
○ *Apr–Sep: daily; Oct, Mar: Thu–Mon.* 🎧 🛍 ♿

One of the most important Neolithic sites in England, this was once an extensive complex of flint mines – 433 shafts have been located – dating from before 2000 BC.

Using antlers as pickaxes, Stone Age miners hacked through the soft chalk to extract the hard flint below to make weapons and tools. The flint may have been transported long distances around England on the prehistoric network of paths. You can descend 9 m (30 ft) by ladder into one of the shafts and see

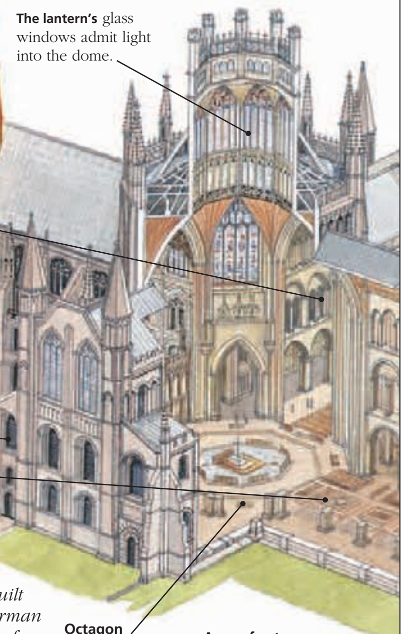
Ely ❷

Cambridgeshire. 👥 *14,000.* 🚆
ℹ *29 St Mary's St (01353 662062).*
○ *daily.* 🛒 *Thu (general), Sat (craft & antiques).* **http://**visitely.eastcambs.gov.uk

Built on a chalk hill, this small city is thought to be named after the eels in the nearby River Ouse. The hill was once an inaccessible island in the then marshy and treacherous Fens *(see p196).* It was also the last stronghold of Anglo-Saxon resistance, under Hereward the Wake *(see p48),* who hid in the cathedral until the Normans crossed the Fens in 1071.

Today this small prosperous city, totally dominated by the huge **cathedral**, is the market centre for the rich agricultural area surrounding it.

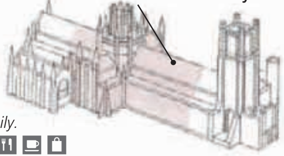
This painted wooden angel *is one of hundreds of bosses that were carved all over the south and north transepts in the 13th and 14th centuries.*



The lantern's glass windows admit light into the dome.

The tomb is that of Alan de Walsingham, designer of the unique Octagon.

The Octagon, *made of wood, was built in 1322 when the Norman tower collapsed. Its roof, the lantern, took an extra 24 years to build and weighs 200 tonnes.*



ELY CATHEDRAL
Ely. ***Tel*** *01353 667735.* ○ *daily.*
● *special events.* 🎧 ♿ ☞ 🍴 ☕ 🛍

Begun in 1083, the cathedral took 268 years to complete. It survived the Dissolution *(see p50)* but was closed for 17 years by Cromwell *(see p52)* who lived in Ely for a time.

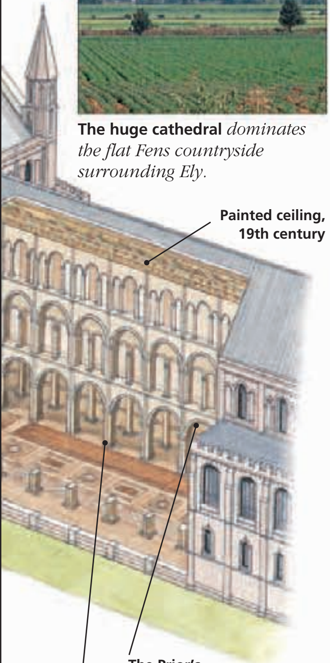
the galleries where the flint was mined. During excavations, unusual chalk models of a fertility goddess *(see p43)* and a phallus were discovered.

Environs: Nearby, at the centre of the once fertile plain known as the Breckland, is the small market town of **Thetford**.

Once a prosperous trading town, its fortunes dipped in the 16th century, when its priory was destroyed *(see p50)* and the surrounding land deteriorated due to excessive sheep grazing. The area was later planted with pine trees. A mound in the city marks the site of a pre-Norman castle.

The revolutionary writer and philosopher Tom Paine, author of *The Rights of Man,* was born here in 1737.

The huge cathedral *dominates the flat Fens countryside surrounding Ely.*



Painted ceiling, 19th century

The Prior's Door (c.1150)

The south aisle has 12 classic Norman arches at its foot, with pointed Early English windows above.

Oxburgh Hall surrounded by its medieval moat

Swaffham ❹

Norfolk. 👥 *6,700.* 🚌 ℹ *Market Place (01760 722255).* ○ *Apr–mid-Oct.* ⊖ *Sat.* **www**.aroundswaffham.co.uk

The best-preserved Georgian town in East Anglia and a fashionable resort during the Regency period, Swaffham is at its liveliest on Saturdays when a market is held in the square around the market cross of 1783. In the centre of the town is the 15th-century **Church of St Peter and St Paul**, with a small spire added in the 19th century. It has a magnificent Tudor north aisle, said to have been paid for by John Chapman, the Pedlar of Swaffham. He is depicted on the two-sided town sign near the market place. Myth has it that he went to London and met a stranger who told him of hidden treasure at Swaffham. He returned, dug it up and used it to embellish the church, where he is shown in a window.

Environs: Castle Acre, north of the town, has the remains of a massive Cluniac **priory**. Founded in 1090, its stunning Norman front still stands.

A short drive south is **Oxburgh Hall and Garden**, built by Sir Edmund Bedingfeld in 1482. The hall, entered through a huge 24 m (80 ft) fortified gatehouse, displays the velvet Oxburgh Hangings, embroidered by Mary, Queen of Scots *(see p511)*.

Swaffham town sign

✝ Castle Acre Priory
(EH) Castle Acre. ***Tel*** *01760 755394.* ○ *daily (Oct–Mar: Thu–Mon.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ▨ ♿ *ltd.* 🔒

🏛 Oxburgh Hall & Garden
(NT) Oxborough. ***Tel*** *01366 328258.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Sat–Wed (Aug: daily).* **Garden** ○ *Dec: Sat, Sun.* ▨ ♿ *ltd.* 🍴 🔒

BOADICEA AND THE ICENI

When the Romans invaded Britain, the Iceni, the main tribe in East Anglia, joined forces with them to defeat the Catuvellauni, a rival tribe. But the Romans then turned on the Iceni, torturing Queen Boadicea (or Boudicca). In AD 61, she led a revolt against Roman rule: her followers burned down London, Colchester and St Albans. The rebellion was put down and the queen took poison rather than submit. At Cockley Cley, near Swaffham, an Iceni camp has been excavated.

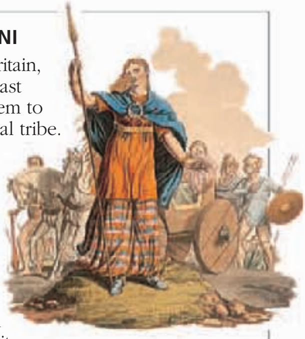


Illustration of Queen Boadicea leading her Iceni followers

A windmill on Wicken Fen

The Fens ❺

Cambridgeshire/Norfolk. 🚉 *Ely.* ℹ *29 St Mary's St, Ely (01353 662062).* ● *Mon.*
www.eastcambs.gov.uk/tourism

This is the open, flat, fertile expanse that lies between Lincoln, Cambridge, Bedford and King's Lynn. Up until the 17th century it was a swamp, and settlement was possible only on "islands", such as Ely *(see p194).*

Through the 17th century, speculators, recognizing the value of the peaty soil for farmland, brought in Dutch experts to drain the fens. However, as the peat dried, it contracted, and the fens have slowly been getting lower. Powerful electric pumps now keep it drained.

Nine miles (14 km) from Ely is Wicken Fen, 243 ha (600 acres) of undrained fen providing a habitat for water life, wildfowl and wild flowers.

King's Lynn ❻

Norfolk. 👥 *42,000.* 🚉 🚌
ℹ *Custom House, Purfleet Quay (01553 763044).* 🛒 *Tue, Fri, Sat.*
www.visitwestnorfolk.com

Trinity Guildhall, King's Lynn

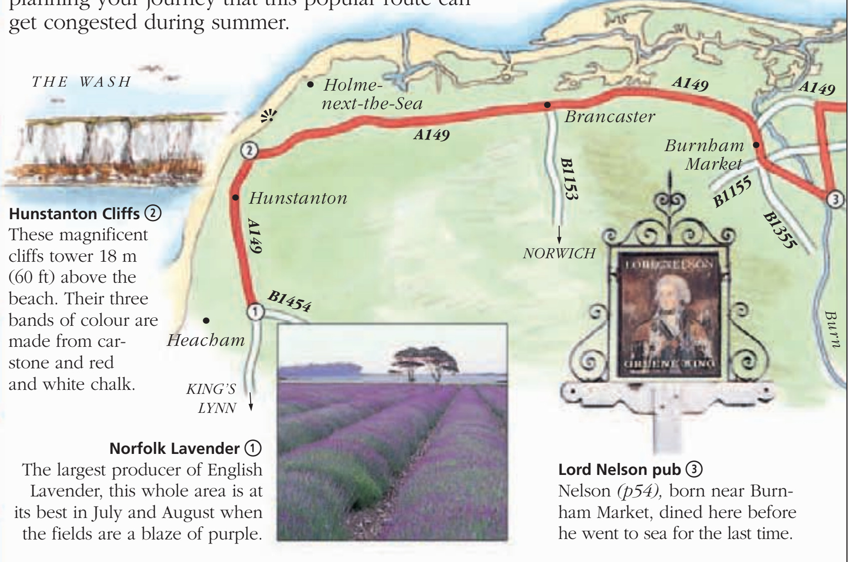
Formerly Bishop's Lynn, its name was changed at the Reformation *(see p50)* to reflect the changing political reality. In the Middle Ages it was one of England's most prosperous ports, shipping grain and wool from the surrounding countryside to Europe. There are still a few warehouses and merchants' houses by the River Ouse surviving from this period. At the north end of the town is **True's**

North Norfolk Coastal Tour ❽

This tour takes you through some of the most beautiful areas of East Anglia; nearly all of the north Norfolk coast has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The sea has dictated the character of the area. With continuing deposits of silt, once busy ports are now far inland and the shingle and sand banks that have been built up are home to a huge variety of wildlife. Do bear in mind when planning your journey that this popular route can get congested during summer.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Tour length: *28 miles (45 km).*
Stopping-off points: *Holkham Hall makes a pleasant stop for a picnic lunch. There are some good pubs in Wells-next-the-Sea.*
(See also pp684–5.)



Hunstanton Cliffs ②
These magnificent cliffs tower 18 m (60 ft) above the beach. Their three bands of colour are made from carrstone and red and white chalk.

Norfolk Lavender ①
The largest producer of English Lavender, this whole area is at its best in July and August when the fields are a blaze of purple.

Lord Nelson pub ③
Nelson *(p54),* born near Burnham Market, dined here before he went to sea for the last time.

Yard, a relic of the old fishermen's quarter.

The **Trinity Guildhall**, located in the Saturday Market Place, dates back to the 15th century and was formerly a prison. The handsome **Custom House**, overlooking the river, was built in the 17th century as a merchant exchange. It is now a museum dedicated to the town's colourful maritime history. The Tourist Information Centre is also located here. **St Margaret's Church**, on the Market Place, dates back to 1101, and the interior includes a fine Elizabethan screen. In 1741 the tall spire on the southwest tower collapsed in a storm.

Custom House
Purfleet Quay. ***Tel*** *01553 763044.*
○ *daily.* ♿ *ground floor.*

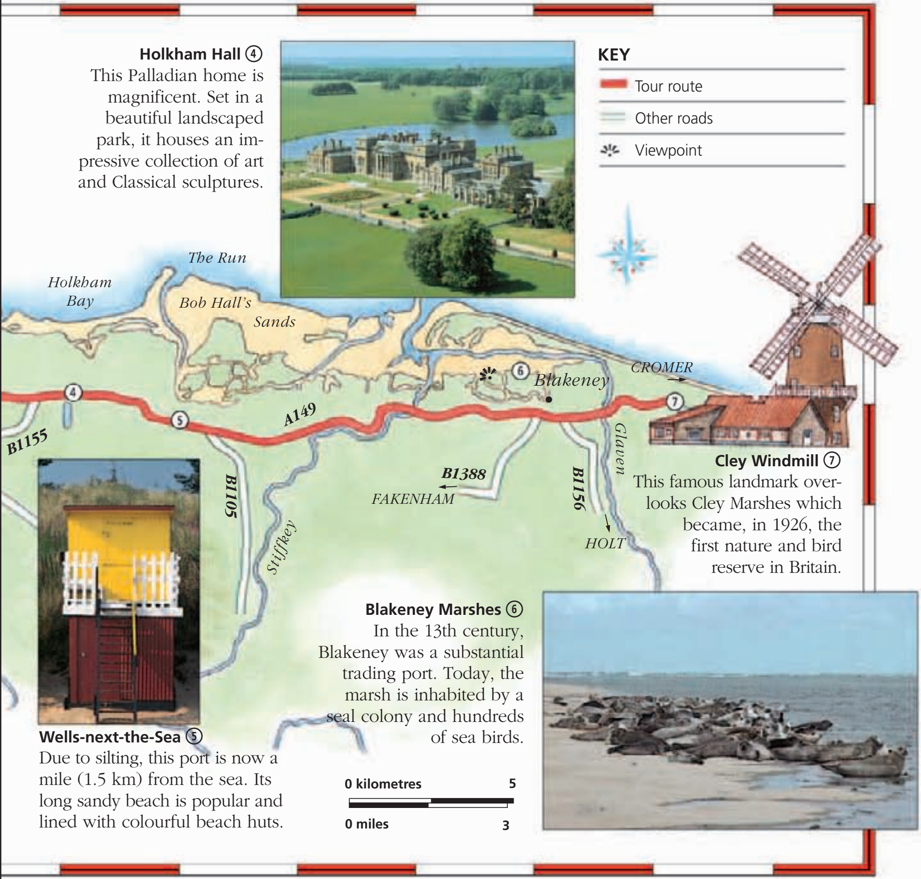
Sandringham House, where the Royal Family spend every Christmas

Sandringham ❼

Norfolk. ***Tel*** *01553 612908.* 🚌 *from King's Lynn.* ○ *Easter–Oct: daily.* ● *one wk Jul.* 🎧 ♿ 🍴 *all year.* 🛍 *all year.* **www**.sandringhamestate.co.uk

This sizeable Norfolk estate has been in royal hands since 1862 when it was bought by the Prince of Wales, who later became Edward VII. The 18th-century house was elaborately embellished and refurbished by the prince and now retains an appropriately Edwardian atmosphere.

The large stables are now a museum and contain several trophies that relate to hunting, shooting and horse racing – all favourite royal activities. A popular feature is a display of royal motor cars spanning nearly a century. In the park there are scenic nature trails.



Holkham Hall ④
This Palladian home is magnificent. Set in a beautiful landscaped park, it houses an impressive collection of art and Classical sculptures.

Cley Windmill ⑦
This famous landmark overlooks Cley Marshes which became, in 1926, the first nature and bird reserve in Britain.

Blakeney Marshes ⑥
In the 13th century, Blakeney was a substantial trading port. Today, the marsh is inhabited by a seal colony and hundreds of sea birds.

Wells-next-the-Sea ⑤
Due to silting, this port is now a mile (1.5 km) from the sea. Its long sandy beach is popular and lined with colourful beach huts.

The symmetrical red-brick façade of the 17th-century Blickling Hall

Blickling Hall ⑨

(NT) Aylsham, Norfolk. ***Tel*** *01263 738 030.* 🚆 *Norwich, then bus.* **House** ○ *Mar–Oct: Wed–Sun (also open Mon mid-Jul–Aug).* **Garden** ○ *dawn–dusk daily.* **Park** ○ *daily.* ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.nationaltrust.org.uk

Approached from the east, its symmetrical Jacobean front framed by trees and flanked by two yew hedges, Blickling Hall offers one of the most impressive vistas of any country house in the area.

Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's tragic second queen, spent her childhood here, but very little of the original house remains. Most of the present structure dates from 1628, when it was home to James I's Chief Justice Sir Henry Hobart. Later in 1767 the 2nd Earl of Buckinghamshire, John Hobart, celebrated the Boleyn connection with reliefs in the Great Hall depicting Anne and her daughter, Elizabeth I. The Long Gallery is the most spectacular room to survive from the 1620s. Its ceiling depicts symbolic representations of learning.

The Peter the Great Room marks the 2nd earl's service as ambassador to Russia and was built to display a huge spectacular tapestry (1764) of the tsar on horseback, a gift from, Catherine the Great. It also has portraits (1760) of the ambassador and his wife by Gainsborough *(see p163).*

Norwich ⑩

See pp200–201.

The Broads ⑪

Norfolk. 🚆 *Hoveton, Wroxham.* 🚌 *Norwich, then bus.* ℹ *Station Rd, Hoveton (01603 782281) Apr–Oct, or The Forum, Norwich (01603 213 999).* **www**.broads-authority.gov.uk

These shallow lakes and waterways south and northeast of Norwich, joined by six rivers – the Bure, Thurne, Ant, Yare, Waveney and Chet – were once thought to have been naturally formed, but in actual fact they are medieval peat diggings which flooded when the water level rose in the 13th century.

In summer the 125 miles (200 km) of open waterways, uninterrupted by locks, teem with thousands of boating enthusiasts. You can either hire a boat yourself or take one of the many trips on offer to view the plants and wildlife of the area. Look out for Britain's largest butterfly, the swallowtail. Wroxham, the unofficial capital of the Broads, is the starting point for many of these excursions.

The waterways support substantial beds of strong and durable reeds, much in demand for thatching *(see p33)*. They are cut in winter and carried to shore in the distinctive Broads punts.

For a more detailed look at the origins of the Broads and their varied wildlife, visit the **Norfolk Wildlife Trust** – a large thatched floating information centre on Ranworth Broad, with displays on all aspects of the area, and a bird-watching gallery.

In the centre of Ranworth is **St Helen's Church** which has a painted medieval screen, a well-preserved 14th-century illuminated manuscript and spectacular views over the entire area from its tower.

Sailing boat, Wroxham Broad, Norfolk

Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Ranworth. ***Tel*** *01603 270479.*
○ *Apr–Oct: daily.* ♿ 🛍

Great Yarmouth ⑫

Norfolk. 👥 *90,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *Marine Parade (01493 846346).*
🛒 *Wed, Fri (summer), Sat.*
www.great-yarmouth.co.uk

Herring fishing was once the major industry of this port, with 1,000 boats engaged in it just before World War I. Over-fishing led to a depletion of stocks and, for the port to survive, it started to earn its living from servicing container ships and North Sea oil rigs.

It is also the most popular seaside resort on the Norfolk coast and has been since the 19th century, when Dickens *(see p189)* gave it useful publicity by setting part of his novel *David Copperfield* here.

The **Elizabethan House Museum** has a large, eclectic display which illustrates the social history of the area.

In the old part of the town, around South Quay, are a number of charming houses including the 17th-century **Old Merchant's House**. It retains its original patterned plaster ceilings as well as examples of old ironwork and architectural fittings from nearby houses, which were destroyed during World War II. The guided tour of the house includes a visit to the adjoining cloister of a 13th-century friary.

Fishing trawlers at Lowestoft's quays

🏛 **Elizabethan House Museum**
(NT) 4 South Quay. ***Tel*** *01493 855746.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily (pm only weekends).* 🎟 🛍

🏠 **Old Merchant's House**
(EH) South Quay. ***Tel*** *01493 857900.* ○ *Apr–Sep: pm daily.* 🎟 ✋ 🛍

WINDMILLS ON THE FENS AND BROADS

Corn mill at Saxtead Green, near Framlingham

Herringfleet Smock Mill, near Lowestoft

The flat, open countryside and the stiff breezes from the North Sea made windmills an obvious power source for East Anglia well into the 20th century, and today they are an evocative and recurring feature of the landscape. On the Broads and Fens, some were used for drainage, while others, such as that at Saxtead Green, ground corn. On the boggy fens they were not built on hard foundations, so few survived, but elsewhere, especially on the Broads, many have been restored to working order. The seven-storey Berney Arms Windmill is the tallest on the Broads. Thurne Dyke Drainage Mill is the site of an exhibition about the occasionally idiosyncratic mills and their more unusual mechanisms.

Lowestoft ⑬

Suffolk. 👥 *55,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *East Point Pavilion, Royal Plain (01502 533600).* 🛒 *Tue–Sat.*
www.visit-lowestoft.co.uk

The most easterly town in Britain was long a rival to Great Yarmouth, both as a holiday resort and a fishing port. Its fishing industry has only just survived. The coming of the railway in the 1840s gave the town an advantage over other resorts, and the solid Victorian and Edwardian boarding houses are evidence of its popularity.

Lowestoft Museum, in a 17th-century house, has a good display of the fine porcelain made here in the 18th century, as well as exhibits on local archaeology and domestic life.

Environs: Somerleyton Hall is built in Jacobean style on the foundations of a smaller mansion. Its gardens are a real delight, and there is a genuinely baffling yew hedge maze.

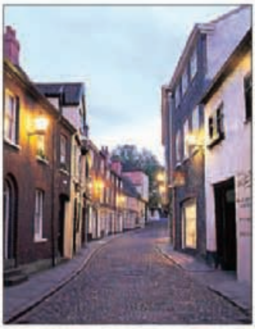
🏛 **Lowestoft Museum**
Oulton Broad. ***Tel*** *01502 511457.* ○ *May–Oct: 10:30am–5pm daily (from 2pm Sun).* 🛍 ♿ *ltd.* ✋ *by appt.* **www**.lowestoftmuseum.org

🏠 **Somerleyton Hall**
On B1074. ***Tel*** *01502 734901.* ○ *Easter Sun–Oct: Thu, Sun & pub hols (Jul–Aug: also Tue, Wed).* 🛍 🎟 ♿ ✋ *by appt.* ☕
www.somerleyton.co.uk

Norwich ⑩

In the heart of the fertile East Anglian countryside, Norwich, one of the best-preserved cities in Britain, is steeped in a relaxed provincial atmosphere. The city was first fortified by the Saxons in the 9th century and still has the irregular street plan of that time. With the arrival of Flemish settlers in the early 12th century and the establishment of a textile industry, the town soon became a prosperous market and was the second city of England until the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century *(see pp56–7)*.

One of over a thousand carved bosses in the cathedral cloisters



The cobbled street, Elm Hill

Exploring Norwich

The oldest parts of the city are Elm Hill, one of the finest medieval streets in England, and Tombland, the old Saxon market place by the cathedral. Both have well-preserved medieval buildings, which are now incorporated into pleasant areas of small shops.

With a trading history spanning hundreds of years, the colourful market in the city centre is well worth a visit. A good walk meanders around the surviving sections of the 14th-century flint city wall.

Norwich Cathedral

The Close. ***Tel*** *01603 218300.*
○ *daily.* **Donations.** ♿ 🍴 🛍
www.cathedral.org.uk

This magnificent building was founded in 1096 by Bishop Losinga and built with stone from Caen in France and Barnack.

The precinct originally included a monastery, and the surviving cloister is the most extensive in England. The thin cathedral spire was added in the 15th century, making it, at 96 m (315 ft), the second tallest in England after Salisbury *(see pp264–5)*. In the majestic nave, soaring Norman pillars and arches support a 15th-century vaulted roof whose stone bosses, many of which illustrate well-known Bible stories, have been beautifully restored.

Easier to appreciate at close hand is the elaborate wood carving in the choir – the canopies over the stalls and the misericords beneath the seats, one showing a small boy being smacked. Not to be missed is the 14th-century Despenser Reredos in St Luke's Chapel. It was hidden for years under a carpenter's table to prevent its destruction by Puritans.

Two gates to the cathedral close survive: **St Ethelbert's**, a 13th-century flint arch, and the **Erpingham Gate** at the west end, built by Sir Thomas Erpingham, who led the triumphant English archers at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 *(see p49)*.

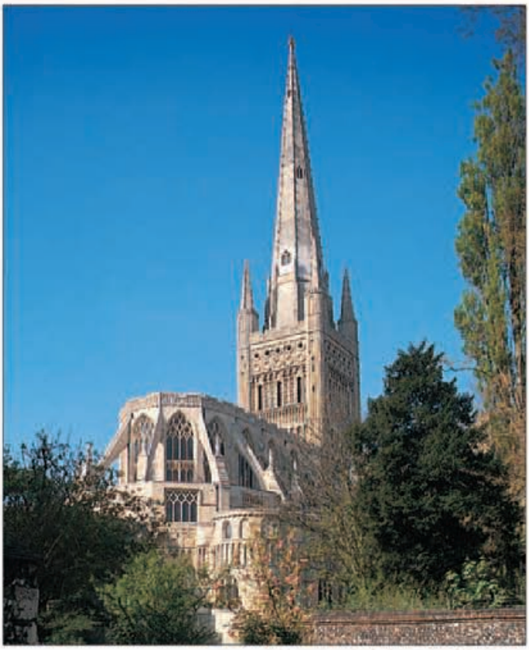
Beneath the east outer wall is the grave of Edith Cavell, the Norwich-born nurse who was arrested and executed in 1915 by the Germans for helping Allied soldiers escape from occupied Belgium.

Castle Museum

Castle Meadow. ***Tel*** *01603 493625.*
○ *daily (Sun pm only).* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk

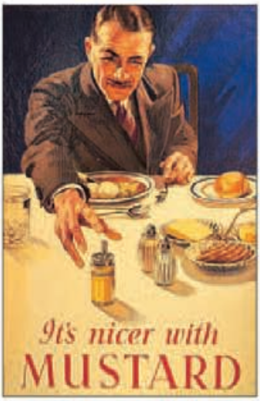
The brooding keep of this 12th-century castle has been a museum since 1894, when it ended 650 years of service as a prison. The most important Norman feature is a carved door that used to be the main entrance.

Exhibits include significant collections of archaeology,



A view of Norwich Cathedral's spire and tower from the southeast

COLMAN'S MUSTARD



It was said of the Colmans that they made their fortune from what diners left on their plate. In 1814 Jeremiah Colman started milling mustard at Norwich because it was at the centre of a fertile plain where mustard was grown. Today at 15 Royal Arcade a shop sells mustard and related items, while a small museum illustrates the history of the company.

A 1950s advertisement for Colman's Mustard

natural history, fine art as well as the world's largest collection of ceramic teapots.

The art gallery is dominated by works from the Norwich School of painters. This group of early 19th century landscape artists painted directly from nature, getting away from the stylized studio landscapes that had been fashionable up to then. Chief among the group were John Crome (1768–1821), whom many compare with Constable *(see p204)*, and John Sell Cotman (1782–1842), known for his watercolours. There are also regular exhibitions held here.

Church of St Peter Mancroft

Market Place. ***Tel*** *01603 610443.*
○ *10am–4pm Mon–Sat; 10am–4pm Sat (summer), 10am–1pm (winter); Sun (services only).* **Donations**. ♿

This imposing Perpendicular church, built around 1455, so dominates the city centre that many visitors assume it is the cathedral. John Wesley *(see p279)* wrote of it, "I scarcely ever remember to have seen a more beautiful parish church".

The large windows make the church very light, and the dramatic east window still has most of its 15th-century glass. The roof is unusual in having wooden fan tracery – it is normally in stone – covering the hammerbeam construction. The famous peal of 13 bells rang out in 1588 to celebrate the defeat of the Spanish Armada *(see p51)* and is still heard every Sunday.

Its name derives from the Latin *magna crofta* (great meadow) which described the area in pre-Norman times.

Bridewell Museum

Bridewell Alley. ***Tel*** *01603 629127.*
● *until summer 2011.* 📷 🛍 ♿

One of the oldest houses in Norwich, this 14th-century flint-faced building was used for years as a jail for women and beggars. It now houses an exhibition of local industries, with displays of old machines and reconstructed shops. A section about the people of Norwich is being developed.

Guildhall

Gaol Hill. ***Tel*** *01264 781611.* ☕

Above the city's ancient market place is the imposing 15th-century flint and stone Guildhall with its gable of checkered flushwork (now a café).

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Norfolk. 👥 *125,000.* ✈ 🚆 *Thorpe Road.* 🚌 *Surrey St.*
ℹ *The Forum, Millennium Plain (01603 213999).* *Mon–Sat.*
www.visitnorwich.co.uk

Strangers' Hall

Charing Cross. ***Tel*** *01603 667229.*
○ *10:30am–4pm Wed–Sat (tickets from Castle Museum).*
● *24 Dec–mid-Feb.*

This 14th-century merchant's house gives a glimpse into English domestic life through the ages. The house was lived in by immigrant weavers – the "strangers". It has a fine 15th-century Great Hall and a costume display featuring a collection of underwear.

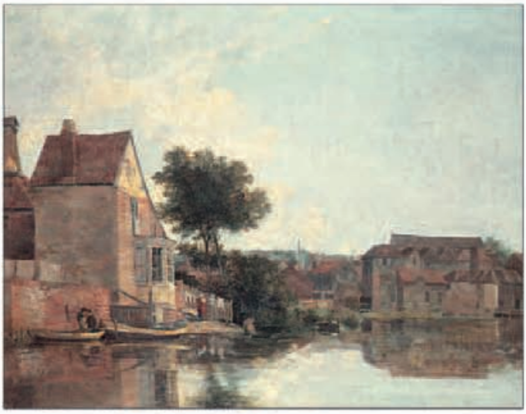
The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts

University of E Anglia (on B1108).
Tel *01603 593199.* ○ *Tue–Sun.*
● *23 Dec–20 Jan.* 📷 ♿ *by arrangement.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.scva.ac.uk

This important art gallery was built in 1978 to house the collection of Robert and Lisa Sainsbury given to the University of East Anglia in 1973.

The collection's strength is in its modern European paintings, including works by Modigliani, Picasso and Bacon, and in its sculptures by Giacometti and Moore. There are also displays of ethnographic art from Africa, the Pacific and the Americas.

The centre, designed by Lord Norman Foster, one of Britain's most innovative architects, was among the first to display its steel structure openly.



Back of the New Mills **(1814) by John Crome of the Norwich School**

Purple heather in flower on Dunwich Heath

Southwold ⓮

Suffolk. 👥 *3,900.* 🚌 ℹ *High Street (01502 724729).* ⛺ *Mon, Thu. Shops closed Wed pm.* **www**.visit-southwold.co.uk

This picture-postcard seaside resort, with its charming white-washed villas clustered around small greens, has, largely by historical accident, remained unspoiled. The railway line which connected it with London was closed in 1929, which effectively isolated this Georgian town from an influx of day-trippers.

This was also once a large port, as testified by the size of the 15th-century **St Edmund King and Martyr Church**, worth a visit for the 16th-century painted screens. On its tower is a small figure dressed in the uniform of a 15th-century soldier and known as Jack o'the Clock. **Southwold Museum** tells the story of the Battle of Sole Bay, which was fought offshore between the English and Dutch navies in 1672.

Jack o'the Clock, Southwold

Environs: The pretty village of **Walberswick** lies across the creek. By road it is a long detour and the only alternatives are a rowing-boat ferry across the harbour (summer only) or a footbridge across the river half a mile inland. Further inland at Blythburgh, the 15th-century **Holy Trinity Church** dominates the surrounding land. In 1944 a US bomber blew up over the church, killing Joseph Kennedy Jr, brother of the future American president.

🏛 **Southwold Museum**
9–11 Victoria St. ***Tel*** *01502 726097.* ○ *Easter–Oct: 2–4pm daily (also am in Aug).* ♿

Intricate carving on the exterior of the Tudor Moot Hall, Aldeburgh

Dunwich ⓯

Suffolk. 👥 *1,400.*

This tiny village is all that remains of a "lost city" consigned to the sea by erosion. In the 7th century Dunwich was the seat of the powerful East Anglian kings. In the 13th century it was still the biggest port in Suffolk and some 12 churches were built. But the land was being eroded at about a metre (3 ft) a year, and the last original church collapsed into the sea in 1919.

Dunwich Heath, to the south, runs down to a sandy beach and is an important nature reserve. **Minsmere Reserve** has observation hides for watching a huge variety of birds.

🐦 **Dunwich Heath**
(NT) Nr Westleton. ***Tel*** *01728 648501.* ○ *dawn–dusk.* ☕ 🛍

🐦 **Minsmere Reserve**
Minsmere, Westleton. ***Tel*** *01728 648281.* ○ *daily.* ● *25, 26 Dec.*
♿ ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.rspb.org.uk

Aldeburgh ⓰

Suffolk. 👥 *3,840.* 🚌
ℹ *High St (01728 453637).*

Best known today for the music festivals at Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh has been a port since Roman times (the Roman area is under water).

Erosion has resulted in the fine Tudor **Aldeburgh Museum**, once far inland, today being close to the beach. Its ground floor, originally the market, is now a museum. The large timbered court room above can only be reached by the original outside staircase.

The **church**, also Tudor, contains a large stained-glass window placed in 1979 as a memorial to Benjamin Britten. **The Red House**, Britten's home between 1957 and 1976, is open for tours.

🏛 **Aldeburgh Museum**
Moot Hall, Market Cross Pl.
Tel *01728 454666.* ○ *May–Oct: daily (pm); Easter–Apr: Sat, Sun (pm).* 📷 🛍

🏛 **The Red House**
Golf Lane. ***Tel*** *01728 451700.*
○ *May–Oct.* 📷 ✋

Framlingham Castle ⑰

(EH) Framlingham, Suffolk. ***Tel*** *01728 724189.* 🚆 *Wickham Market then taxi.* ○ *daily (Nov–Mar: Thu–Mon).* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🛍 📷

Perched on a hill, the small village of Framlingham has long been an important strategic site, even before the present castle was built in 1190 by the Earl of Norfolk.

Little of the castle from that period survives except the powerful curtain wall and its towers; walk round the top of it for fine views of the town.

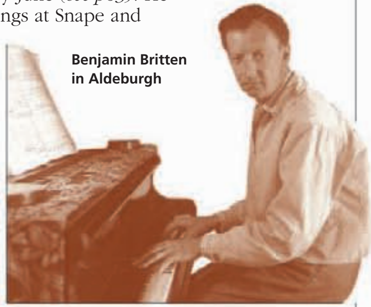
Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII, was staying here in 1553 when she heard she was to become queen.

Environs: To the southeast, on the coast, is the 27 m (90 ft), 16-sided keep of **Orford Castle**, built for Henry II as a coastal defence at around the same time as Framlingham. A short climb to the top of the castle gives fantastic views.

🏰 **Orford Castle**
(EH) Orford. ***Tel*** *01394 450472.* ○ *daily (Oct–Mar: Thu–Mon).* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 📷 🛍

ALDEBURGH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Composer Benjamin Britten (1913–76), born in Lowestoft, Suffolk, moved to Snape in 1937. In 1945 his opera *Peter Grimes* – inspired by the poet George Crabbe (1754–1832), once a curate at Aldeburgh – was performed in Snape. Since then the area has become the centre of musical activity. In 1948, Britten began the Aldeburgh Music Festival, held every June *(see p63)*. He acquired the Maltings at Snape and converted it into a music venue opened by the Queen in 1967. It has since become the focus of an annual series of East Anglian musical events in churches and halls throughout the entire region.



Benjamin Britten in Aldeburgh

Ipswich ⑱

Suffolk. 👥 *120,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *St Stephen's Lane (01473 258070).* ⊖ *Tue, Thu–Sat.*
🎭 *IPART (music & arts): last wk Jun–1st wk Jul.* **www**.visit-ipswich.com

Suffolk's county town has a largely modern centre but several buildings remain from earlier times. It rose to prominence after the 13th century as a port for the rich Suffolk wool trade *(see p207)*. Later, with the Industrial Revolution, it began to export coal.

The **Ancient House** in Buttermarket has a superb example of pargeting – the ancient craft of ornamental façade plastering. The town's museum and art gallery, **Christchurch Mansion**, is a Tudor house from 1548, where Elizabeth I stayed in 1561. It also boasts the best collection of Constable's paintings out of London *(see p204)*, including four marvellous Suffolk landscapes, as well as paintings by Gainsborough *(see p163)*.

Ipswich Museum contains replicas of the Mildenhall and Sutton Hoo treasures, the originals being in the British Museum *(see pp106–7)*.

In the centre of the town is **St Margaret's**, a 15th-century church built in flint and stone with a double hammerbeam roof and 17th-century painted ceiling panels. **Wolsey's Gate**, a Tudor gateway of 1527, provides a link with Ipswich's most famous son, Cardinal Wolsey *(see p173)*. He started to build an ecclesiastical college in the town, but fell from royal favour before it was finished.

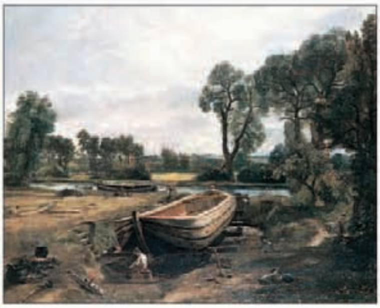
Pargeting on the Ancient House in Ipswich

🏛 **Christchurch Mansion**
Soane St. ***Tel*** *01473 433554.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, Good Fri, 24–27 Dec.* ♿ *limited.* ✋ *by appt.* 🖥 🛍

🏛 **Ipswich Museum**
High St. ***Tel*** *01473 433550.*
○ *Tue–Sat.* 🛍 ♿

Constable Walk ⓳

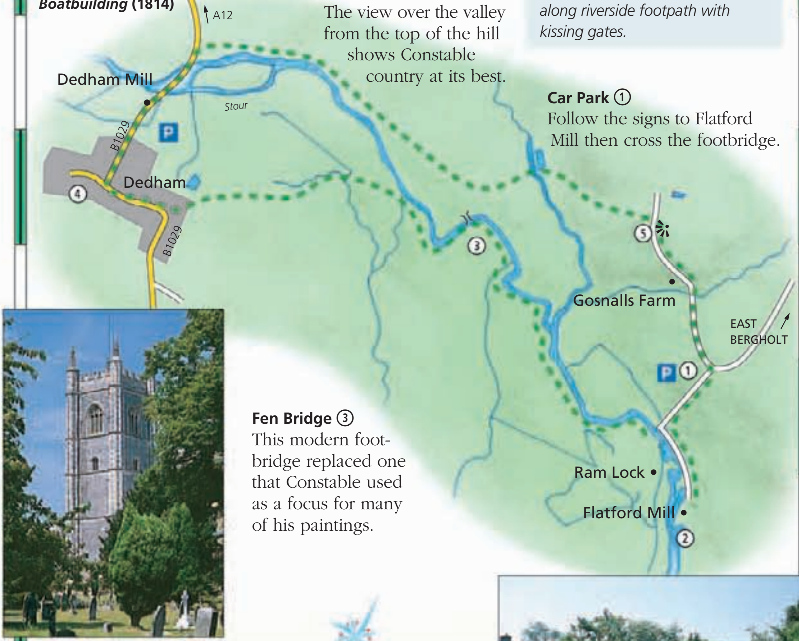
This walk in Constable country follows one of the most picturesque sections of the River Stour. The route taken would have been familiar to the landscape painter John Constable (1776–1837). Constable's father, a wealthy merchant, owned Flatford Mill, which was depicted in many of the artist's important paintings. Constable claimed to know and love "every stile and stump, and every lane" around East Bergholt.



The River Stour, used as a backdrop for Constable's *Boatbuilding* (1814)

TIPS FOR WALKERS

Starting point: *Park off Flatford Lane, East Bergholt (charge to park).* ℹ *01206 299460;* **(NT)** *Bridge Cottage (01206 298260).* ***Getting there:*** *A12 to East Bergholt, then follow signs to Flatford.* 🚆 *Manningtree is within walking distance of Flatford.* 🚌 *from Ipswich or Colchester.* ***Stopping-off point:*** *Dedham.* ***Length:*** *3 miles (5 km).* ***Difficulty:*** *Flat trail along riverside footpath with kissing gates.*



Viewpoint ⑤
The view over the valley from the top of the hill shows Constable country at its best.

Car Park ①
Follow the signs to Flatford Mill then cross the footbridge.

Fen Bridge ③
This modern footbridge replaced one that Constable used as a focus for many of his paintings.

Dedham Church ④
The tall church tower appears in many of Constable's pictures including the *View on the Stour near Dedham* (1822).

Willy Lott's Cottage ②
This cottage remains much the same as it did when featured in Constable's painting *The Hay-Wain (see p83).*

KEY

• •	Route
═	B road
═	Minor road
✲	Viewpoint
P	Parking

0 metres 500

0 yards 500

Colchester ⑳

Essex. 👥 *160,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *Queen St (01206 282920).* ⛺ *Fri, Sat.*
www.visitcolchester.com

The oldest recorded town in Britain, Colchester was the effective capital of south-east England when the Romans invaded in AD 43, and it was here that the first permanent Roman colony was established.

After Boadicea *(see p195)* burnt the town in AD 60, a 2 mile (3 km) wall was built, 3 m (10 ft) thick and 9 m (30 ft) high, to deter future attackers. You can still see these walls and the surviving Roman town gate, the largest in Britain.

During the Middle Ages Colchester developed into an important weaving centre. In the 16th century, a number of immigrant Flemish weavers settled in an area west of the castle, known as the **Dutch Quarter**, which still retains the original tall houses and steep, narrow streets.

Colchester was besieged for 11 weeks during the Civil War *(see p52)* before being captured by Cromwell's troops.

🏛 Tymperleys

Trinity St. ***Tel*** *01206 282939.*
○ *Apr–Oct: Tue–Sat.* ♿ *limited.* 🛍
www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

Clock-making was an important craft in Colchester, and it is celebrated in this restored half-timbered, 15th-century mansion, also worth visiting for its formal Tudor garden.

🏛 Hollytrees Museum

High St. ***Tel*** *01206 282940.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–27 Dec.* ♿ 🛍
www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

This elegant Georgian townhouse was built in 1719. Now a charming museum of social history, you can experience the day-to-day lives of Colchester people and changing technology over 300 years.

🏛 Castle Museum

High St. ***Tel*** *01206 282939.* ○ *10am–5pm daily (from 11am Sun).* ● *1 Jan, 24–27 Dec.* 🛍 ▨ ♿ ☞
www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

This is the oldest and largest Norman keep still standing in England. Twice the size of the White Tower at the Tower of London *(see pp118–19),* it was built in 1076 on the platform of a Roman temple dedicated to Claudius *(see p44),* using stones and tiles from other Roman buildings. The museum's displays relate the story of the town from prehistoric times to the Civil War. There is also a medieval prison.

The Norman keep of the Castle Museum, Colchester

🏰 Layer Marney Tower

Off B1022. ***Tel*** *01206 330784.* ○ *Apr–Sep: Wed & Sun (Jul & Aug: Sun–Thu).* ▨ ♿ *limited.* ☞ *by appt.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.layermarneytower.co.uk

This remarkable Tudor gatehouse is the tallest in Britain: its pair of six-sided, eight-storey turrets reach to 24 m (80 ft). It was intended to be part of a larger complex, but the designer, Sir Henry Marney, died before it was completed. The brickwork and terracotta ornamentation around the roof and windows are models of Tudor craftsmanship.

🍁 Beth Chatto Garden

Elmstead Market. ***Tel*** *01206 822007.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 9am–5pm daily (pm only Sun); Nov–Feb: 9am–4pm Mon–Sat.* ● *22 Dec–5 Jan.* ♿ 🛍 ▨ ☕
www.bethchatto.co.uk

One of Britain's most eminent gardening writers, Beth Chatto began this experiment in the 1960s to test her belief that it is possible to create a garden in the most adverse conditions. The dry and windy slopes, boggy patches, gravel beds and wooded areas support an array of plants best suited to that particular environment.

Coggeshall ㉑

Essex. 👥 *4,000.* ⛺ *Thu.*
www.coggeshall-pc.gov.uk

This town has two of the most important medieval and Tudor buildings in the country. Dating from 1140, **Coggeshall Grange Barn** is the oldest surviving timber-framed barn in Europe. Inside is a display of historic farm wagons. The half-timbered merchant's house, **Paycocke's**, was built around 1500 and has a beautifully panelled interior. There is a display of Coggeshall lace.

🏰 Coggeshall Grange Barn

(NT) Grange Hill. ☎ *01376 562226.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Thu–Sun & public hols (pm).* ● *Good Fri.* ▨ ♿

🏰 Paycocke's

(NT) West St. ***Tel*** *01376 561305.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Tue, Thu, Sun & public hols (pm).* ● *Good Fri.* ▨ ♿

Beth Chatto Garden, Colchester, in full summer bloom

Lavenham ㉒

Suffolk. 👥 *1,800.*
ⓘ *Lady St (01787 248207).*

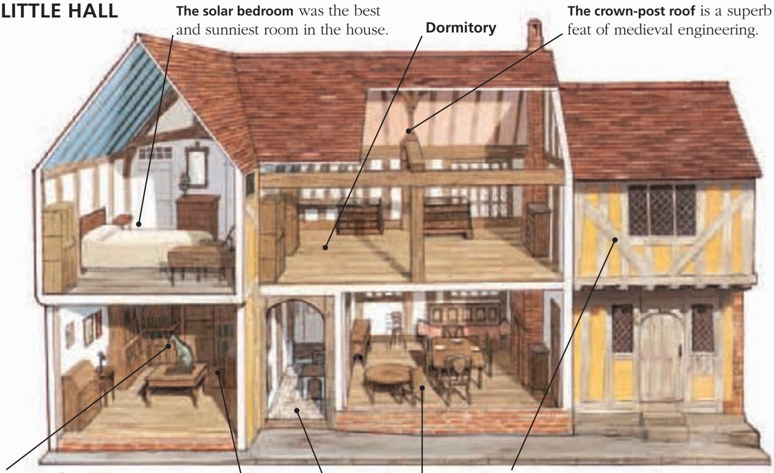
Often considered the most perfect of all English small towns, Lavenham is a treasure trove of beautiful timber-framed houses ranged along streets whose pattern is virtually unchanged from medieval times. For 150 years, between the 14th and 16th centuries, Lavenham was the prosperous centre of the Suffolk wool trade. It still has many outstanding and well-preserved buildings; indeed no less than 300 of the town's buildings are listed, including the magnificent **Little Hall**.

Environs: Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, is a museum on this painter *(see p163)*.

Little Hall Market Place. ***Tel*** *01787 247019.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun; public hols.* ▨

Gainsborough's House Sudbury. ***Tel*** *01787 372958.* ○ *Mon–Sat.* ● *24 Dec–2 Jan, Good Fri.* ♿ 🛍 ☕ ▨ **www**.gainsborough.org

LITTLE HALL


The solar bedroom was the best and sunniest room in the house.
Dormitory
The crown-post roof is a superb feat of medieval engineering.
Bronze of Egyptian Goddess Cat Bastet
Library
Entrance
Dining room
The herringbone-style timber on the exterior was used often in the 14th century.

Bury St Edmunds ㉓

Suffolk. 👥 *34,000.* 🚆 🚌 ⓘ *Angel Hill (01284 764667).* ⛺ *Wed, Sat.* **www**.stedmundsbury.gov.uk

St Edmund was the last Saxon king of East Anglia, decapitated by Danish raiders in 870. Legend has it that a wolf picked up the severed head – an image that appears in a number of medieval carvings. Edmund was canonized in 900 and buried in Bury, where in 1014 King Canute *(see p171)* built an **abbey** in his honour, the wealthiest in England until its destruction in the Dissolution of the Monasteries *(see p351)*. The abbey ruins now lie in the town centre.

Nearby are two large 15th-century churches, built when the wool trade made the town wealthy. **St James's** was designated a cathedral in 1914. The best features of **St Mary's** are the north porch and the hammerbeam roof over the nave. A stone slab in the north-east corner marks the tomb of Mary Tudor *(see pp50–51)*.

Illustration of St Edmund

Just below the **market cross** in Cornhill – remodelled by Robert Adam *(see p28)* in 1714 – stands the large 12th-century **Moyse's Hall**, a merchant's house that serves as the local history museum, displaying archaeology from the area.

Environs: Three miles (5 km) southwest of Bury is the late 18th-century **Ickworth House**. This eccentric Neo-Classical mansion features an unusual rotunda with a

The 18th-century rotunda of Ickworth House, Bury St Edmunds

domed roof flanked by two huge wings. The art collection includes works by Reynolds and Titian. There are also fine displays of silver, porcelain and sculpture, for example, John Flaxman's (1755–1826) moving *The Fury of Athamas*. The house is set in a large park.

Moyse's Hall
Cornhill. ***Tel*** *01284 706183.*
○ *daily (last adm: 4pm).* ● *public hols, 24 Dec.* ♿

Ickworth House (NT)
Horringer. ***Tel*** *01284 735270.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Fri–Tue.* ♿

Newmarket ㉔

Suffolk. *17,000.* *Palace House, Palace St (01638 667200).* *Tue, Sat.* **www**.forest-heath.gov.uk

A walk down the short main street tells you all you need to know about this busy and wealthy little town. The shops sell horse feed and all manner of riding accessories; the clothes on sale are tweeds, jodhpurs and the soft brown hats rarely worn by anyone except racehorse trainers.

Newmarket has been the headquarters of British horse racing since James I decided that its open heaths were ideal for testing the mettle of his fastest steeds against those of his friends. The first ever recorded horse race was held here in 1622. Charles II shared his grandfather's enthusiasm and after the Restoration *(see p53)* would move the whole court to Newmarket, every spring and summer, for the sport – he is the only British king to have ridden a winner.

The stallion unit at the National Stud, Newmarket

A horse being exercised on Newmarket Heath

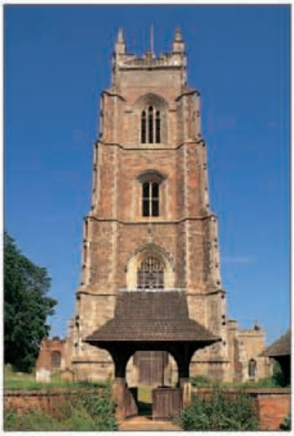
The modern racing industry began to take shape here in the late 18th century. There are now over 2,500 horses in training in and around the town, and two racecourses staging regular race meetings from around April to October *(see pp66–7)*. Training stables are occasionally open to the public but you can view the horses being exercised on the heath in the early morning. Tattersall's, the auction house for thoroughbreds, is in the centre of Newmarket.

The **National Stud** can also be visited. You will see the five or six stallions on stud, mares in foal and if you are lucky a newborn foal – most likely in April or May.

The **National Horseracing Museum** tells the history of the sport and contains many offbeat exhibits such as the skeleton of Eclipse, one of the greatest horses ever, unbeaten in 18 races and the ancestor of most of today's fastest performers. It also has a large display of sporting art.

National Stud
Newmarket. ***Tel*** *01638 663464.* ○ *Feb–Sep: daily; Oct: half term.* ♿ **www**.nationalstud.co.uk

National Horseracing Museum
99 High St, Newmarket. ***Tel*** *01638 667333.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily.* ♿ **www**.nhrm.co.uk


St Mary's Church, Stoke-by-Nayland, southeast of Bury St Edmunds

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE WOOL TRADE

Wool was a major English product from the 13th century and by 1310 some ten million fleeces were exported every year. The Black Death *(see p48),* which swept Britain in 1348, perversely provided a boost for the industry: with labour in short supply, land could not be cultivated and was grassed over for sheep. Around 1350 Edward III decided it was time to establish a home-based cloth industry and encouraged Flemish weavers to come to Britain. Many settled in East Anglia, particularly Suffolk, and their skills helped establish a flourishing trade. This time of prosperity saw the construction of the sumptuous churches, such as the one at Stoke-by-Nayland, that we see today – East Anglia has more than 2,000 churches. The cloth trade here began to decline in the late 16th century with the development of water-powered looms. These were not suited to the area, which never regained its former wealth. Today's visitors are the beneficiaries of this decline, because the wool towns such as Lavenham and Bury St Edmunds never became rich enough to destroy their magnificent Tudor halls and houses and construct new buildings.

The façade of Anglesey Abbey

Anglesey Abbey ㉕

(NT) Lode, Cambridgeshire.
Tel *01223 810080.* 🚆 *Cambridge then bus.* **House** ○ *Mar–Oct: Wed–Sun;* **Garden** ○ *Wed–Sun.* ♿ *limited.* 🍴 🛍

The original Abbey was built in 1135 for an Augustinian order. But only the crypt – also known as the monks' parlour – with its vaulted ceiling on marble and stone pillars, survived the Dissolution *(see p50)*.

This was later incorporated into a manor house whose treasures include furniture from many periods and a rare seascape by Gainsborough *(see p206)*. The superb garden was created in the 1930s by Lord Fairhaven as an ambitious, Classical landscape of trees, sculptures and borders.

Huntingdon ㉖

Cambridgeshire. 👥 *18,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *Princes St (01480 388588).*
🛒 *Wed, Sat.*

More than 300 years after his death, Oliver Cromwell *(see p52)* still dominates this small town. Born here in 1599, a record of his baptism can be seen in the County Records Office in Huntingdon. You can see his name and traces of ancient graffiti scrawled all over it which says "England's plague for five years". **Cromwell Museum**, his former school, traces his life with pictures and mementoes, including his death mask.

Cromwell remains one of the most disputed figures in British history. An MP before he was 30, he became embroiled in the disputes between Charles I and Parliament over taxes and religion. In the Civil War *(see p52)* he proved an inspired general and, after refusing the title of king, was made Lord Protector in 1653, four years after the King was beheaded. Just two years after his death the monarchy was restored by popular demand, and his body was taken out of Westminster Abbey *(see pp92–3)* to hang on gallows.

There is a 14th-century bridge across the River Ouse which links Huntingdon with Godmanchester, the site of a Roman settlement.

🏛 **Cromwell Museum**
Grammar School Walk.
Tel *01480 375830.* ○ *Tue–Sun (Nov–Mar: pm only except Sat).* ● *1 Jan, 24–27 Dec, some public hols.* ♿ 🛍

Cambridge ㉗

See pp210–15.

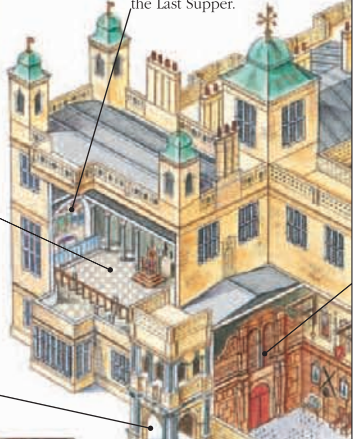
Audley End ㉘

(EH) Saffron Walden, Essex.
Tel *01799 522399.* 🚆 *Audley End then taxi.* **House** ○ *mid-Mar–Oct: Wed–Sun.* **Garden** ○ *Wed–Sun.* ● *24 Dec–31 Jan.* ♿ *limited.* 🍴 🛍
www.english-heritage.org.uk

This was the largest house in England when built in 1603–14 for Thomas Howard, Lord Treasurer and 1st Earl of Suffolk. James I joked that Audley End was too big for a king but not for a Lord Treasurer. Charles II, his grandson, disagreed and bought it in 1667. He seldom went there, however, and in 1701 it was given back to the Howards, who demolished two thirds of it.

What remains is a Jacobean mansion, retaining its original hall and many fine plaster ceilings. Robert Adam *(see p28)* remodelled some of the interior in the 1760s, and these rooms have been restored to his original designs. At the same time, "Capability" Brown *(see p26)* landscaped the magnificent 18th-century park.

The Chapel *was completed in 1772 to a Gothic design. The furniture was made to complement the wooden pillars and vaulting which are painted to imitate stone.*



Stained glass window, installed in 1771, represents the Last Supper.

Main entrance

The Great Hall, *hung with family portraits, is the highlight of the house, with the massive oak screen and elaborate hammerbeam roof surviving in their Jacobean form.*

Epping Forest ㉙

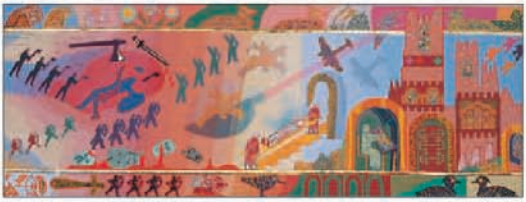
Essex. 🚆 *Chingford.* ⊖ *Loughton, Theydon Bois.* ℹ *High Beach, Loughton (020–8508 0028) & Highbridge St, Waltam Abbey (01992 652295).*

As one of the large open spaces near London, the 2,400 ha (6,000 acre) forest is popular with walkers, just as, centuries ago, it was a favourite hunting ground for kings and courtiers – the word forest denoted an area for hunting. Henry VIII had a lodge built in 1543 on the edge of the forest. His daughter Elizabeth I often used the lodge and it soon became known as **Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge**.

This three-storey timbered building has been fully renovated and now houses an exhibition explaining the lodge's history and other aspects of the forest's life.

The tracts of open land and woods interspersed with a number of lakes, make an ideal habitat for a variety of plant, bird and animal life: deer roam the northern part, many of a special dark strain introduced by James I. The Corporation of London bought the forest in the mid-19th century to ensure it remained open to the public.

Epping Forest contains oaks and beeches up to 400 years old



A depiction of the Battle of Maldon (991) on the *Maldon Embroidery*

🏛 Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge
Rangers Rd, Chingford. ***Tel*** *020–8529 6681.* ○ *Oct–Mar: Fri–Sun; Apr–Sep: Wed–Sun, pm only.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ *limited.* ☞ *by appt.* 🛍 ▭

Maldon ㉚

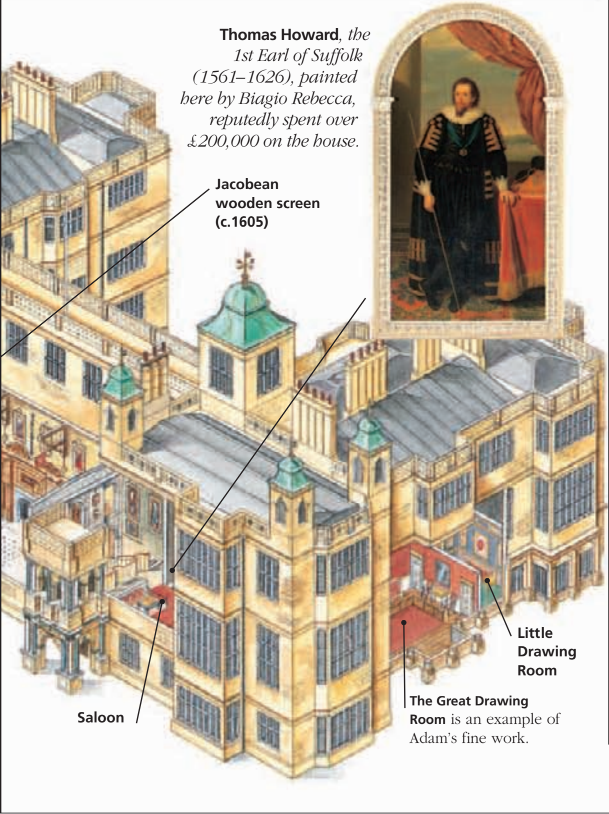
Essex. 👥 *21,000.* 🚆 *Chelmsford then bus.* ℹ *Coach Lane (01621 856503).* ⌂ *Thu, Sat.*
www.visitmaldon.co.uk

This delightful old town on the River Blackwater, its High Street lined with shops and inns from the 14th century on, was once an important harbour. One of its best-known industries is the production of Maldon sea salt, panned in the traditional way.

A fierce battle here in 991, when Viking invaders defeated the Saxon defenders, is told in *The Battle of Maldon*, one of the earliest known Saxon poems. The battle is also celebrated in the *Maldon Embroidery* on display in the **Maeldune Centre**. This 13-m-(42-ft-) long embroidery, made by locals, depicts the history of Maldon from 991 to 1991.

Environs: East of Maldon at Bradwell-on-Sea is the sturdy Saxon church of **St Peter's-on-the-Wall**, a simple stone building that stands isolated on the shore. It was built in 654, from the stones of a former Roman fort, by St Cedd, who used it as his cathedral. It was restored in the 1920s.

🏛 Maeldune Centre
High St. ***Tel*** *01621 851628.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Mon–Sat; Nov–Mar: Thu & Fri; pm only.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ☞



Thomas Howard, *the 1st Earl of Suffolk (1561–1626), painted here by Biagio Rebecca, reputedly spent over £200,000 on the house.*

Jacobean wooden screen (c.1605)

Saloon

Little Drawing Room

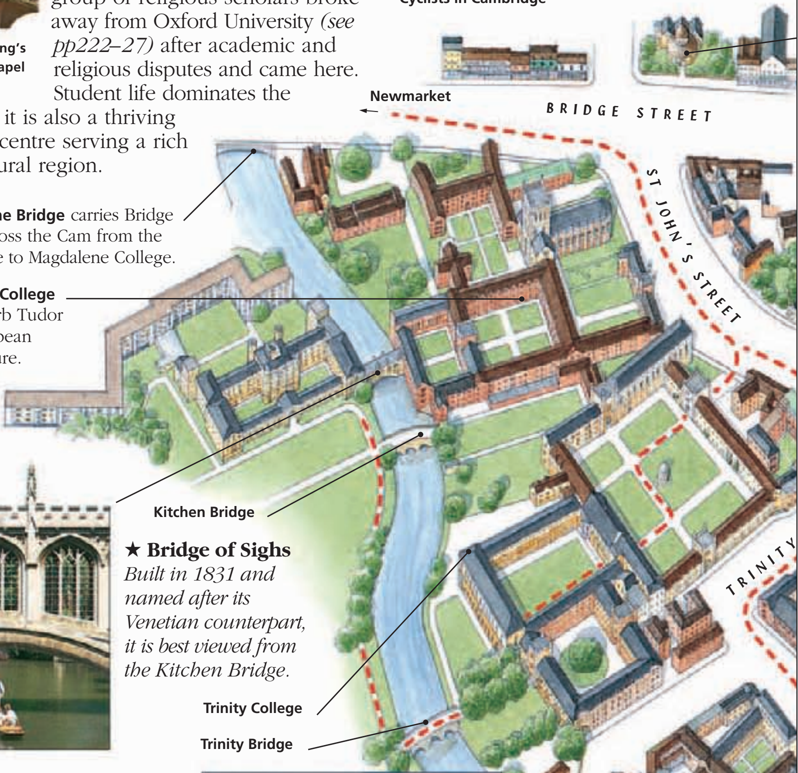
The Great Drawing Room is an example of Adam's fine work.

Street-by-Street: Cambridge ㉗

Carving, King's College Chapel

Cambridge has been an important town since Roman times as it was sited at the first navigable point on the River Cam. In the 11th century religious orders began to be established in the town and, in 1209, a group of religious scholars broke away from Oxford University *(see pp222–27)* after academic and religious disputes and came here. Student life dominates the city but it is also a thriving market centre serving a rich agricultural region.

Cyclists in Cambridge



Magdalene Bridge carries Bridge Street across the Cam from the city centre to Magdalene College.

St John's College has superb Tudor and Jacobean architecture.

Kitchen Bridge

★ Bridge of Sighs

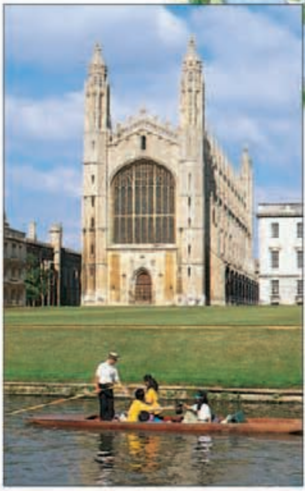
Built in 1831 and named after its Venetian counterpart, it is best viewed from the Kitchen Bridge.

Trinity College

Trinity Bridge

The Backs

This is the name given to the grassy strip lying between the backs of the big colleges and the banks of the Cam – a good spot to enjoy this classic view of King's College Chapel.



Clare College

Clare Bridge

Grantchester

0 metres 75

0 yards 75

KEY

▬ ▬ ▬ Suggested route

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Bridge of Sighs
- ★ King's College Chapel

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp565–567 and pp618–620

Round Church
The 12th-century Church of the Holy Sepulchre has one of the few round naves in the country. Its design is based on the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Great St Mary's Church
This clock is over the west door of the university's official church. Its tower offers fine views.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Cambridgeshire. 👥 *120,000.* ✈ *Stansted.* ✈ *Cambridge.* 🚆 *Station Rd.* 🚌 *Drummer St.* ℹ *Wheeler St (0871 2268006).* ☎ *01223 457574.* ● *daily.* *Folk Festival: July; Strawberry Fair: June.* **www**.visitcambridge.org

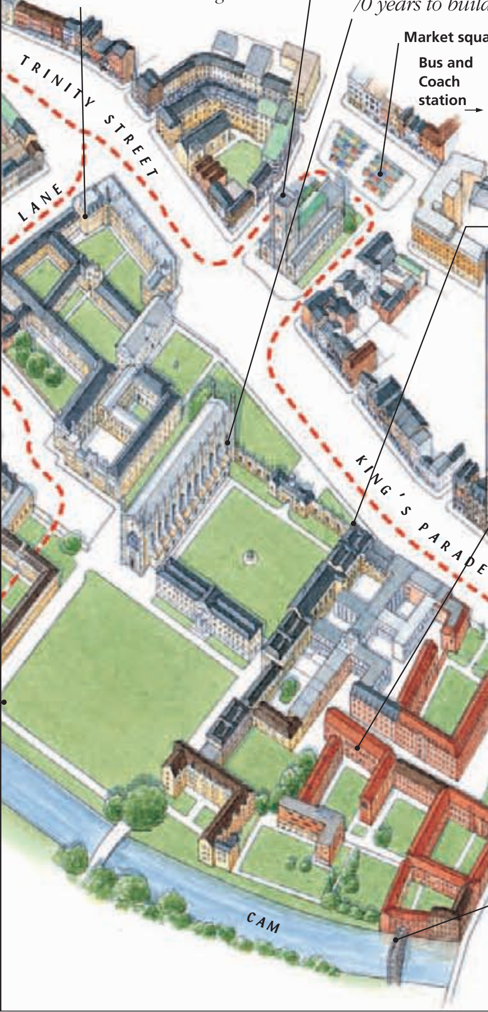
Gonville and Caius (pronounced "keys"), founded in 1348, is one of the oldest colleges.

★ King's College Chapel
This late medieval masterpiece took 70 years to build (see pp212–13).

Market square

Bus and Coach station →

King's College
Henry VIII, king when the chapel was completed in 1515, is commemorated in this statue near the main gate.



Queens' College
Its Tudor courts are among the university's finest. This 18th-century sundial is over the old chapel – now a reading room.

Corpus Christi College

To London and railway station

Mathematical Bridge
It is a myth that this bridge over the Cam at Queens' College was first built without nuts or bolts.

🏛 Fitzwilliam Museum

Trumpington St. ***Tel*** *01223 332900.* ○ *Tue–Sun; public hols.* ● *24–27 Dec, 1 Jan, Good Fri.* **Donation**. ♿ *by arrangement.* 🖥 🛍 **www**.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

One of Britain's oldest public museums, this massive Classical building has works of exceptional quality and rarity, especially antiquities, ceramics, paintings and manuscripts.

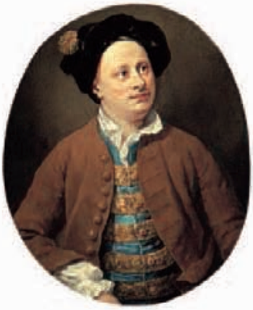
The core of the collection was bequeathed in 1816 by the 7th Viscount Fitzwilliam. Other gifts have since greatly added to the exhibits.

Works by Titian (1488–1576) and the 17th-century Dutch masters, including Hals, Cuyp and Hobbema's *Wooded Landscape* (1686), stand out among the paintings. French Impressionist gems include Monet's *Le Printemps* (1866) and Renoir's *La Place Clichy* (1880), while Picasso's *Still Life* (1923) is notable among the modern works. Most of the important British artists are represented, from Hogarth in the 18th century through Constable in the 19th to Ben Nicholson in the 20th.

The miniatures include the earliest surviving depiction of Henry VIII. In the same gallery are some dazzling illuminated manuscripts, notably the 15th-century *Metz Pontifical,* a French liturgical work.

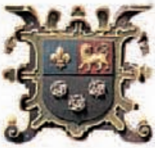
The impressive Glaisher collection of European earthenware and stoneware includes a unique display of English delftware from the 16th and 17th centuries.

Handel's bookcase contains folios of his work, and nearby is Keats's original manuscript for *Ode to a Nightingale* (1819).



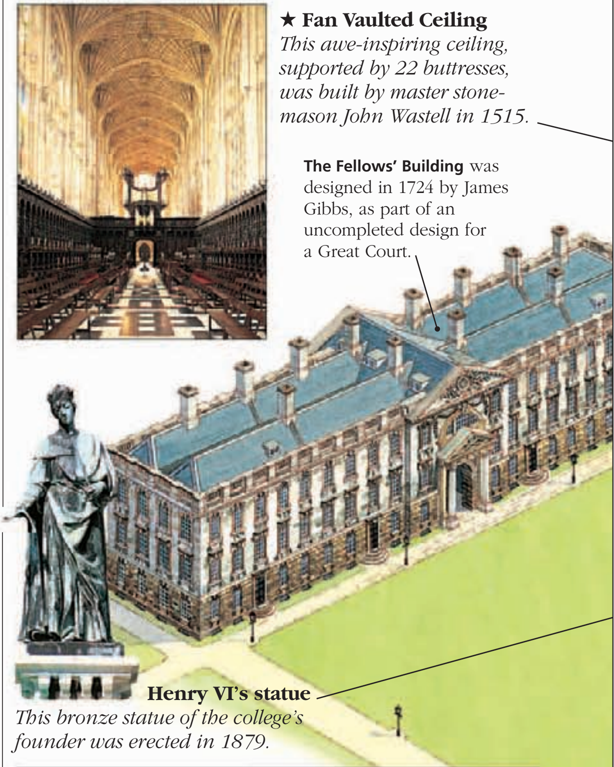
Portrait of Richard James (c.1740s) by William Hogarth

Cambridge: King's College



King's College Coat of Arms

Henry VI founded this college in 1441. Work on the chapel – one of the most important examples of late medieval English architecture – began five years later, and took 70 years to complete. Henry himself decided that it should dominate the city and gave specific instructions about its dimensions: 88 m (289 ft) long, 12 m (40 ft) wide and 29 m (94 ft) high. The detailed design is thought to have been by master stonemason Reginald Ely, although it was altered in later years.



★ Fan Vaulted Ceiling
This awe-inspiring ceiling, supported by 22 buttresses, was built by master stonemason John Wastell in 1515.

The Fellows' Building was designed in 1724 by James Gibbs, as part of an uncompleted design for a Great Court.

Henry VI's statue
This bronze statue of the college's founder was erected in 1879.

KING'S COLLEGE CHOIR

When he founded the chapel, Henry VI stipulated that a choir of six lay clerks and 16 boy choristers – educated at the College school – should sing daily at services. This still happens in term time but today the choir also gives concerts all over the world. Its broadcast service of carols has become a much-loved Christmas tradition.

Choristers in King's College Chapel

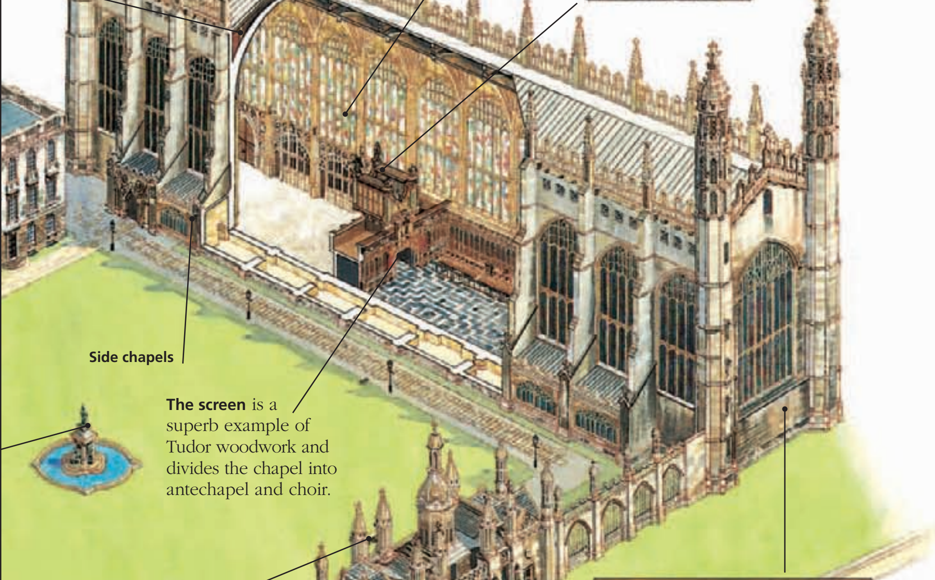
Crown and Tudor Rose
This detail of Tudor heraldry on the west door of the Chapel reflects Henry VII's vision of English supremacy.

Stained-Glass Windows
The 16th-century windows in the chapel all depict biblical scenes. This one shows Christ baptizing his followers.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

King's Parade. ***Tel*** *01223 331212.* ○ *Oct–Sep: daily (pm only on Sun during term time).* ● *for events ring first.* ✝ *term-time: 5:30pm Mon–Sat, 10:30am & 3:30pm Sun* ♿ **www**.kings.cam.ac.uk

Organ
The massive 17th-century organ case above the screen is decorated with two angels playing trumpets.

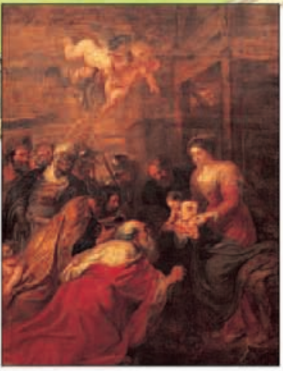


The screen is a superb example of Tudor woodwork and divides the chapel into antechapel and choir.

STAR SIGHTS

★ Fan Vaulted Ceiling

★ Altarpiece by Rubens



★Altarpiece by Rubens
Painted in 1634 for the convent of the White Nuns in Belgium, The Adoration of the Magi *was privately donated to King's in 1961.*

Exploring Cambridge University

Cambridge University has 31 colleges *(see also pp210–11),* the oldest being Peterhouse (1284) and the newest being Robinson (1979). Clustered around the city centre, many of the older colleges have peaceful gardens backing onto the River Cam, which are known as the "Backs". The layout of the older colleges, as at Oxford *(see pp226–7),* derives from their early connections with religious institutions, although few escaped heavy-handed modification in the Victorian era. The college buildings are generally grouped around squares called courts and offer an unrivalled mix of over 600 years of architecture from the late medieval period through Wren's masterpieces and up to the present day.

The nave of the Wren Chapel at Pembroke College

The imposing façade of Emmanuel College

Emmanuel College

Built in 1677 on St Andrew's Street, Sir Christopher Wren's *(see p114)* chapel is the highlight of the college. Some of the intricate interior details, particularly the plaster ceiling and Amigoni's altar rails (1734), are superb. Founded in 1584, the college has a Puritan tradition. One notable graduate was the clergyman John Harvard, who emigrated to America in 1636 and left all his money to the Massachusetts college that now bears his name.

Senate House

King's Parade is the site of this Palladian building, which is used primarily for university ceremonies. It was designed by James Gibbs in 1722 as part of a grand square of university buildings – which was never completed.

Corpus Christi College

Just down from Senate House, this was founded in 1352 by the local trade guilds, anxious to ensure that education was not the sole prerogative of church and nobility. Its Old Court is remarkably well preserved and looks today much as it would have done when built in the 14th century.

The college is connected by a 15th-century gallery of red brick to St Bene't's Church (short for St Benedict's), whose large Saxon tower is the oldest structure in Cambridge.

PUNTING ON THE CAM

Punting captures the essence of carefree college days: a student leaning on a long pole, lazily guiding the flat-bottomed river craft along, while others stretch out and relax. Punting is still popular both with students and visitors, who can hire punts from boatyards along the river – with a chauffeur if required. Punts do sometimes capsize, and novices should prepare for a dip.

Punting by the King's College "Backs"

King's College

See pp212–13.

Pembroke College

The college chapel was the first building completed by Wren *(see pp114–15).* A formal classical design, it replaced a 14th-century chapel that was turned into a library. The college, just off Trumpington Street, also has fine gardens.

Jesus College

Although founded in 1497, some of its buildings on Jesus Lane are older, as the college took over St Radegond's nunnery, built in the 12th century. There are traces of Norman columns, windows and a well-preserved hammerbeam roof in the college dining hall.

The chapel keeps the core of the original church but the stained glass windows are modern and contain work by William Morris *(see pp220–21).*

Queens' College

Built in 1446 on Queens' Land, the college was endowed in 1448 by Margaret of Anjou, queen of Henry VI, and again in 1465 by Elizabeth Woodville, queen of Edward IV, which explains the position of the apostrophe. Queens' has a marvellous collection of Tudor buildings, notably the half-timbered President's Gallery, built in the mid-16th century on top of the brick arches in the charming Cloister Court. The Principal Court is 15th century, as is Erasmus's Tower, named after the Dutch scholar.

Pepys Library in Magdalene College

The college has buildings on both sides of the Cam, linked by the bizarre Mathematical Bridge, built in 1749 to hold together without the use of nuts and bolts – although they have had to be used in subsequent repairs.

Magdalene College

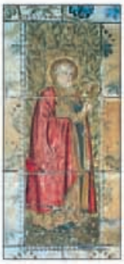
Pronounced "maudlin" – as is the Oxford college *(see p226)* – the college, on Bridge Street, was established in 1482. The diarist Samuel Pepys (1633–1703) was a student here and left his large library to the college on his death. The 12 red-oak bookcases have over 3,000 books. Magdalene was the last all-male Cambridge college and it admitted women students only in 1987.

St John's College

Sited on St John's Street, the imposing turreted brick and stone gatehouse of 1514, with its colourful heraldic symbols, provides a fitting entrance to the second largest Cambridge college and its rich store of 16th- and 17th-century buildings. Its hall, most of it Elizabethan, has portraits of the college's famous alumni, such as the poet William Wordsworth *(see p366)* and the statesman Lord Palmerston. St John's spans the Cam and boasts two bridges, one built in 1712 and the other, the Bridge of Sighs, in 1831, based on its Venetian namesake.

Peterhouse

The first Cambridge college, on Trumpington Street, is also one of the smallest. The hall still has original features from 1286 but its best details are later – a Tudor fireplace which is backed with 19th-century tiles by William Morris *(see pp220–21)*. A gallery connects the college to the 12th-century church of St Mary the Less, which used to be called St Peter's Church – hence the college's name.



William Morris tiles, Peterhouse

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Cambridge Colleges can usually be visited from 2–5pm daily, but there are no set opening hours. See noticeboards at each college for daily opening times. Some colleges charge admission.

Trinity College

The largest college, situated on Trinity Street, was founded by Henry VIII in 1547 and has a massive court and hall. The entrance gate, with statues of Henry and James I (added later), was built in 1529 for King's Hall, an earlier college incorporated into Trinity. The Great Court features a late Elizabethan fountain – at one time the main water supply. The chapel, built in 1567, has life-size statues of college members, notably Roubiliac's statue of the scientist Isaac Newton (1755).

University Botanic Garden

A delightful place for a leisurely stroll, just off Trumpington Street, as well as an important academic resource, the garden has been on this site since 1846. It has a superb collection of trees and a sensational water garden. The winter garden is one of the finest in the country.

The Bridge of Sighs over the River Cam, linking the buildings of St John's College

THAMES VALLEY

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE · OXFORDSHIRE · BERKSHIRE BEDFORDSHIRE · HERTFORDSHIRE

The mighty tidal river on which Britain's capital city was founded has modest origins, meandering from its source in the hills of Gloucestershire through the lush countryside towards London. Almost entirely agricultural land in the 19th century, the Thames Valley maintains its pastoral beauty despite the incursion of modern industry.

There are ancient royal connections with the area. Windsor Castle has been a residence of kings and queens for more than 900 years, and played a critical role in history in 1215, when King John set out from here to sign the *Magna Carta* at Runnymede on the River Thames. Further north, Queen Anne had Blenheim Palace built for her military commander, the 1st Duke of Marlborough. Elizabeth I spent part of her childhood at Hatfield House, and part of the Tudor palace still stands.

Several towns in this region, most notably Burford in Oxfordshire, developed as coach staging posts on the important trunk routes between London and the West Country. With the introduction of commuter transportation in the early 20th century, much of the area became an extension of suburbia and saw some imaginative experiments in Utopian town planning such as the garden city of Welwyn and the Quaker settlement at Jordons.

Oxford, the Thames Valley's principal city, owes its importance to the foundation of Britain's first university there in 1167; many of its colleges are gems of medieval architecture. In the 17th century, a number of battles during the Civil War *(see p52)* were fought around Oxford, which for a time was the headquarters of King Charles I, who was supported by the students. When the royalists were forced to flee Oxford, Cromwell made himself chancellor of the university.

Punting on the River Cherwell, Oxford

◁ **Medieval staircase in Christchurch College, Oxford**

Exploring the Thames Valley

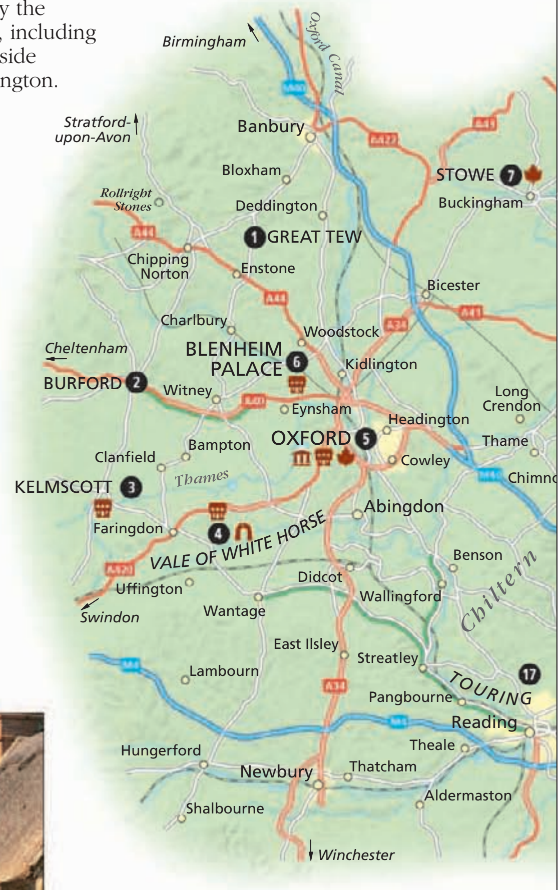
The pleasant countryside of the Chiltern Hills and of the Thames Valley itself appealed to aristocrats who built stately homes close to London. Many of these are among the grandest in the country, including Hatfield House and Blenheim. Around these great houses grew picturesque villages, with half-timbered buildings and, as you move towards the Cotswolds, houses built in attractive buff-coloured stone. That the area has been inhabited for thousands of years is shown by the number of prehistoric remains, including the most remarkable chalk hillside figure, the White Horse of Uffington.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Blenheim Palace pp228–9 ⑥
Burford ②
Gardens of the Rose ⑮
Great Tew ①
Hatfield House ⑬
Hughendon Manor ⑯
Kelmscott ③
Knebworth House ⑫
Oxford pp222–7 ⑤
Roald Dahl Museum ⑩
St Albans ⑭
Stowe ⑦
Vale of the White Horse ④
Waddesdon Manor ⑨
Windsor pp235–7 ⑱
Woburn Abbey ⑧
ZSL Whipsnade Zoo ⑪

Walks and Tours

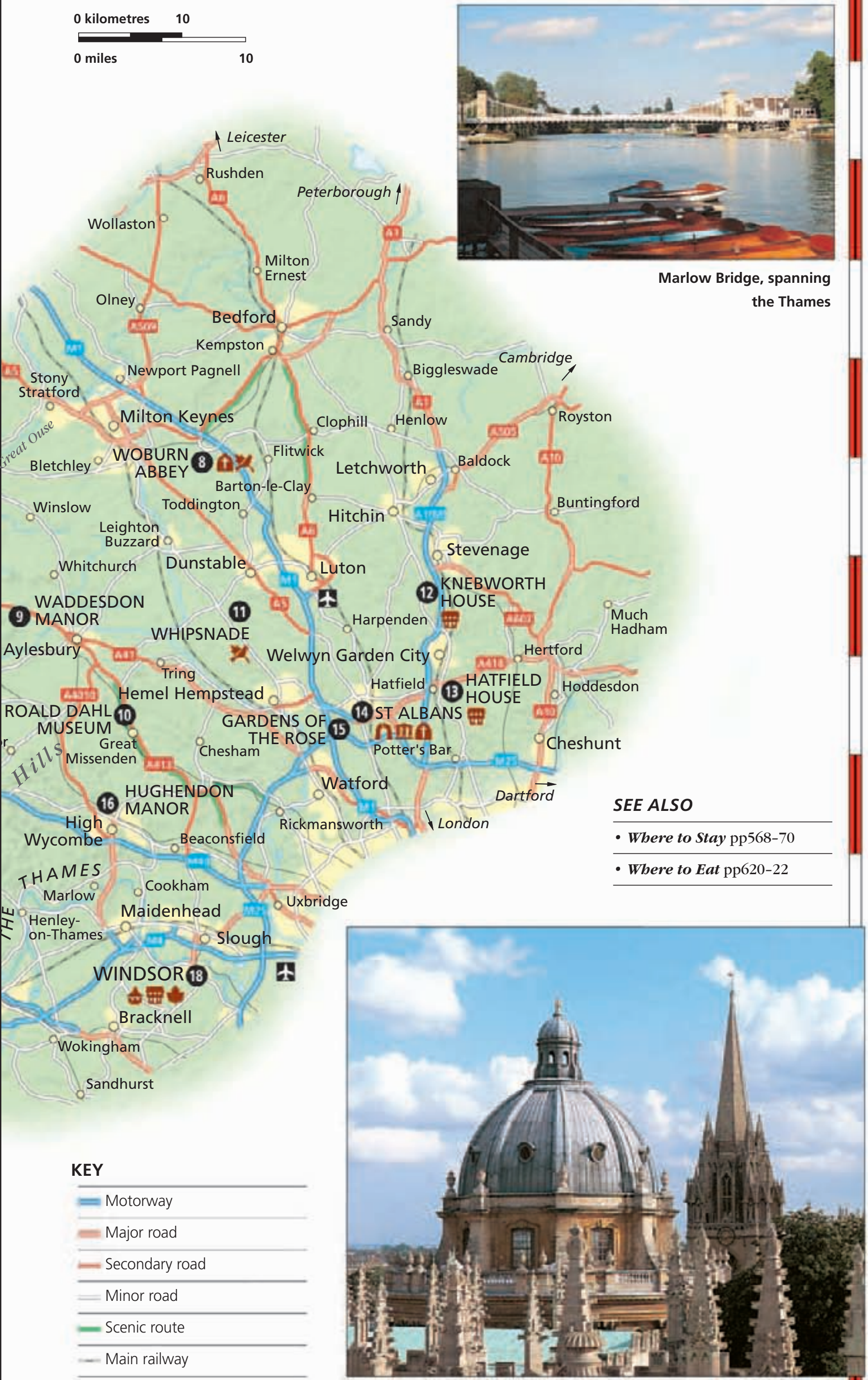
Touring the Thames ⑰


Birmingham
Oxford Canal
M40
Stratford-upon-Avon
Banbury
A422
A43
Bloxham
STOWE ⑦
Buckingham
Rollright Stones
Deddington
A44
① GREAT TEW
Chipping Norton
Enstone
A44
Bicester
A41
Charlbury
Woodstock
A34
Cheltenham
BLENHEIM PALACE ⑥
Kidlington
BURFORD ②
Witney
A40
Eynsham
Long Crendon
Headington
OXFORD ⑤
Thame
Clanfield
Bampton
Cowley
M40
Chimn
Thames
KELMSCOTT ③
Abingdon
Faringdon
④
VALE OF WHITE HORSE
Benson
A420
Didcot
Uffington
Wallingford
Chiltern
Swindon
Wantage
East Ilsley
Streatley
M4
Lambourn
⑰
A34
TOURING
Pangbourne
M4
Reading
Theale
Hungerford
Newbury
Thatcham
Aldermaston
Shalbourne
Winchester

A thatched cottage, Upper Swarford, Banbury

GETTING AROUND

As an important commuter belt, the Thames Valley is well served by public transport, as well as a good network of motorways and major roads into London. Mainline trains travel to all the major towns and there are many coach services that run from London to the major sights and attractions.


0 kilometres 10
0 miles 10
Leicester
Rushden
Peterborough
Wollaston
A6
A1
Milton Ernest
Olney
Bedford
Sandy
A509
Kempston
M1
A5
Stony Stratford
Newport Pagnell
Biggleswade
Cambridge
Milton Keynes
Clophill
Henlow
Royston
Great Ouse
A1
A505
WOBURN ABBEY 8
Flitwick
Baldock
A10
Bletchley
Letchworth
Barton-le-Clay
Winslow
Toddington
Buntingford
Hitchin
A1(M)
Leighton Buzzard
A6
Stevenage
Dunstable
Luton
Whitchurch
M1
KNEBWORTH HOUSE 12
WADDESDON MANOR 9
11
A5
A602
Much Hadham
Harpenden
WHIPSNADE
Aylesbury
A41
Welwyn Garden City
Hertford
A414
Tring
Hatfield
HATFIELD HOUSE 13
A4010
Hemel Hempstead
Hoddesdon
ROALD DAHL MUSEUM 10
GARDENS OF THE ROSE 15
14 ST ALBANS
A10
Great Missenden
Chesham
Potter's Bar
Cheshunt
Hills
A413
M25
Watford
Dartford
HUGHENDON MANOR 16
Rickmansworth
London
High Wycombe
Beaconsfield
M40
THAMES
Cookham
Marlow
Maidenhead
Uxbridge
M25
Henley-on-Thames
Slough
M4
WINDSOR 18
Bracknell
Wokingham
Sandhurst

Marlow Bridge, spanning the Thames

SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp568–70
- ***Where to Eat*** pp620–22

Radcliffe Camera, surrounded by Oxford's spires

KEY

▬	Motorway
▬	Major road
▬	Secondary road
▬	Minor road
▬	Scenic route
▬	Main railway
▬	Minor railway

Great Tew ①

Oxfordshire. 👥 *250.* 🚆 *Oxford or Banbury then taxi.* ℹ *Castle Quay Shopping Centre, Banbury (01295 753752).* **www**.visitnorth oxfordshire.com

This secluded village of ironstone was founded in the 1630s by Lord Falkland for estate workers. It was heavily restored between 1809 and 1811 in the Gothic style. Thatched cottages stand in gardens with clipped box hedges, and in the village centre is the 16th-century pub, the **Falkland Arms**, with its original period atmosphere.

Environs: Five miles (8 km) west are the **Rollright Stones**, three Bronze Age monuments. They comprise a stone circle of 77 stones, about 30 m (100 ft) in diameter, known as the King's Men; the remains of a burial chamber called the Whispering Knights; and the solitary King Stone.

Further north is **Banbury**, well known for its spicy flat cakes and its market cross, immortalized in the nursery rhyme, *Ride a Cock-horse to Banbury Cross*. The original medieval cross was destroyed but it was replaced in 1859.

🏛 Falkland Arms Pub
Great Tew. ***Tel*** *01608 683653.*
○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🍴 ♫

The 19th-century Banbury Cross

Burford ②

Oxfordshire. 👥 *1,000.*
ℹ *Sheep St (01993 823558).*

A charming small town, Burford has hardly changed from Georgian times, when it was an important coach stop between Oxford and the West Country. Cotswold stone houses, inns and shops, many built in the 16th century, line its main street. **Tolsey Hall** is a Tudor house with an open ground floor where stalls are still set up. The house is located on the corner of Sheep Street, itself a reminder of the importance of the medieval wool trade *(see p207).*

Environs: Just east of Burford is **Swinbrook**, whose church contains the Fettiplace Monuments, six carved figures from the Tudor and Stuart periods. Two miles (3 km) beyond are the ruins of **Minster Lovell Hall**, a 15th-century manor house whose unusual dovecote survives intact.

A few miles south of Burford is **Cotswold Wildlife Park**, home to a diverse collection of mammals, reptiles and birds. **Witney**, to the west, has a town hall dating from 1730.

🏛 Minster Lovell Hall
(EH) Minster Lovell. ○ *daily.*

🦌 Cotswold Wildlife Park
Burford. ***Tel*** *01993 823006.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🅿 ♿ 🍴 🛍
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Kelmscott ③

Oxfordshire. 👥 *100.* ℹ *5 Market Place, Faringdon (01367 242191).*
www.faringdon.org

The imaginative designer and writer William Morris lived in this pretty Thameside village from 1871 until his death in 1896. He shared his house, the classic Elizabethan **Kelmscott Manor**, with fellow painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–82), who left after an affair with Morris's wife Jane – the model for many pre-Raphaelite paintings.

Morris and his followers in the Arts and Crafts movement were attracted by the

SWAN
GALLERY

Cotswold stone houses, Burford, Oxfordshire

The formal entrance of the Elizabethan Kelmscott Manor

medieval feel of the village and several cottages were later built in Morris's memory.

Today Kelmscott Manor has works of art by members of the movement – including some William de Morgan tiles. Morris is buried in the village churchyard, with a tomb designed by Philip Webb.

Two miles (3 km) to the east is **Radcot Bridge**, thought to be the oldest bridge still standing over the Thames. Built in the 13th century from the local Taynton stone, it was a strategic river crossing, and in 1387 was damaged in a battle between Richard II and his barons.

🏠 **Kelmscott Manor**
Kelmscott. ***Tel** 01367 252486.* ○ *Apr–Sep: Wed & some Sat; Gardens & shop: Thu.* ⊘ ♿ *limited.* 🛍 🍴
www.kelmscottmanor.co.uk

Vale of the White Horse ④

Oxfordshire. 🚆 *Didcot.* ℹ *25 Bridge St, Abingdon (01235 522711); 19 Church St, Wantage (01235 760176).* **www**.abingdon.gov.uk

This lovely valley gets its name from the huge chalk horse, 100 m (350 ft) from nose to tail, carved into the hillside above Uffington. It is believed to be Britain's oldest hillside carving and has sparked many legends: some say it was cut by the Saxon leader Hengist (whose name means stallion in German), while others believe it is to do with Alfred the Great, thought to have been born nearby.

It is, however, a great deal older than either of these stories suggest, having been dated at around 1000 BC.

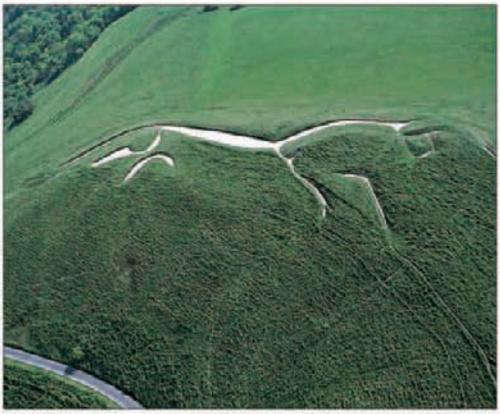
Nearby is the Celtic earth ramparts of the Iron Age hill fort, **Uffington Castle**. A mile (1.5 km) west along the Ridgeway, an ancient trade route, *(see p37),* is an even older monument, a large Stone Age burial mound which is known as **Wayland's Smithy**. This is immersed in legends that Sir Walter Scott *(see p512)* used in his novel *Kenilworth*.

The best view of the horse is to be had from Uffington village, which is also worth visiting for the **Tom Brown's School Museum**. This 17th-century school house contains exhibits devoted to the author Thomas Hughes (1822–96). Hughes set the early chapters of his Victorian novel, *Tom Brown's Schooldays,* here. The museum also contains material about excavations on White Horse Hill.

🏛 **Tom Brown's School**
Broad St, Uffington. ℹ *01367 820259.* ○ *Easter–Oct: Sat, Sun & public hols (pm).* ⊘ ♿ *limited.* 🛍
www.museum.uffington.net

HILLSIDE CHALK FIGURES

It was the Celts who first saw the potential for creating large-scale artworks on the chalk hills of southern England. Horses – held in high regard by both the Celts and later the Saxons, and the objects of cult worship – were often a favourite subject, but people were also depicted, notably Cerne Abbas, Dorset *(see p269)* and the Long Man of Wilmington *(see p180)*. The figures may have served as religious symbols or as landmarks by which tribes identified their territory. Many chalk figures have been obliterated, because without any attention they are quickly overrun by grass. Uffington is "scoured", to prevent encroachment by grass, a tradition once accompanied by a fair and other festivities. There was a second flush of hillside carving in the 18th century, especially in Wiltshire. In some cases – for instance at Bratton Castle near Westbury – an 18th-century carving has been superimposed on an ancient one.



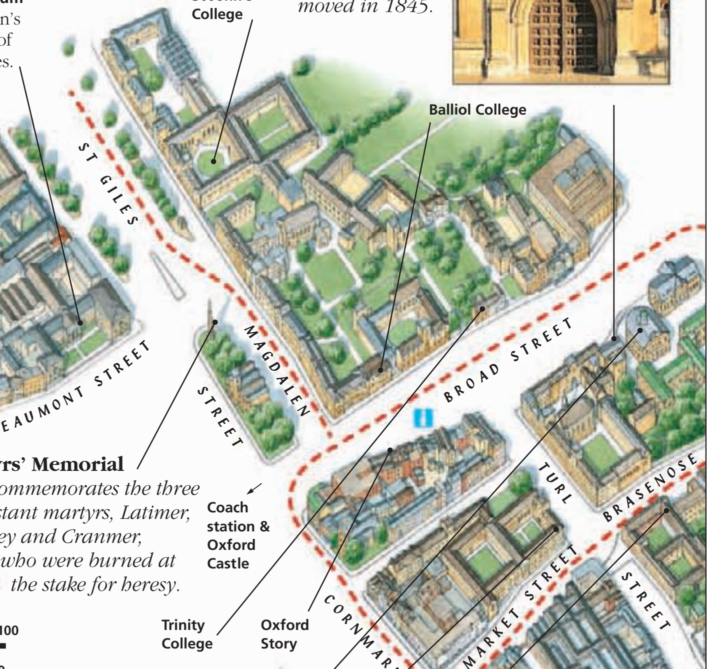
Britain's oldest hillside carving, the White Horse of Uffington

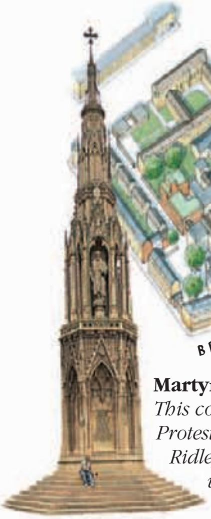
Street-by-Street: Oxford ❺

Oxford has long been a strategic point on the western routes into London – its name describes its position as a convenient spot for crossing the river (a ford for oxen). The city's first scholars, who founded the university, came from France in 1167. The development of England's first university created the spectacular skyline of tall towers and "dreaming spires".

Old Ashmolean
Now the Museum of the History of Science, this resplendent building was designed in 1683 to show Elias Ashmole's collection of curiosities. The displays were moved in 1845.

The Ashmolean Museum displays one of Britain's foremost collections of fine art and antiquities.


St John's College
Balliol College
ST GILES
BEAUMONT STREET
MAGDALEN STREET
BROAD STREET
TURL
BRASENOSE STREET
CORNMARKET STREET
MARKET STREET
ST ALDATES
i
Coach station & Oxford Castle
Trinity College
Oxford Story
Jesus College
Lincoln College
Covered market
Railway station
Lincoln College Library
Museum of Oxford



Martyrs' Memorial
This commemorates the three Protestant martyrs, Latimer, Ridley and Cranmer, who were burned at the stake for heresy.

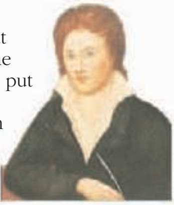
0 meters 100
0 yards 100

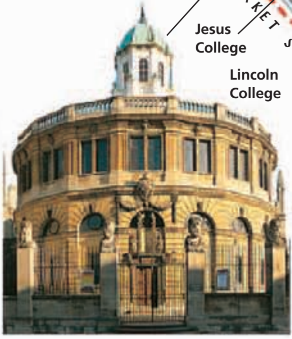
KEY

▬ ▬ ▬ Suggested route

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

Shelley (1792–1822), one of the Romantic poets *(see p366)*, attended University College, Oxford, but was expelled after writing the revolutionary pamphlet *The Necessity of Atheism*. Despite that disgrace, the college has put up a memorial to him from his daughter-in-law.



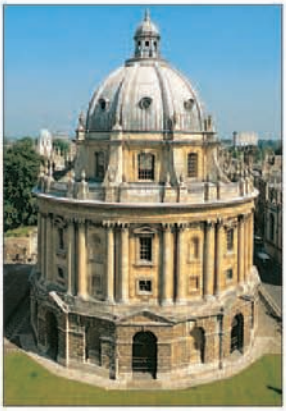


Sheldonian Theatre
The first building designed by Wren (see p114) *is the scene of Oxford University's traditional graduation ceremonies.*

STAR SIGHTS

★ Radcliffe Camera

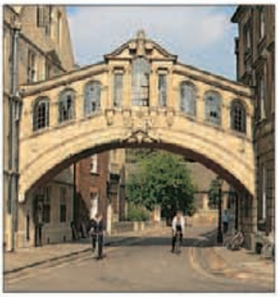
★ Christ Church



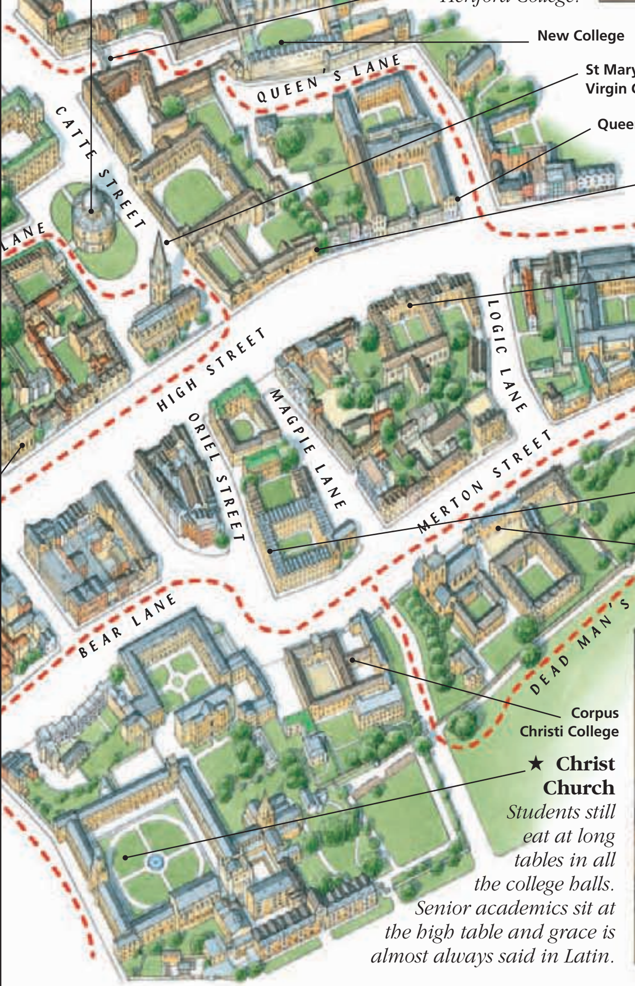
★ Radcliffe Camera
This Classical rotunda is Oxford's most distinctive building and is now a reading room of the Bodleian. It was one of the library's original buildings (see p227).

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Oxfordshire. 👥 *134,248.* 🚉 *Botley Rd.* 🚌 *Gloucester Green.* ℹ *15–16 Broad St (01865 25 2200).* 🛒 *Wed, 1st & 3rd Thu of mth (farmers' market), Thu (flea market).* **www**.visitoxford.org



Bridge of Sighs
Resembling the steeply arched bridge in Venice of the same name, this picturesque landmark was built in 1914 and joins the old and new buildings of Hertford College.


New College
St Mary the Virgin Church
Queen's College
All Souls College
→ London
University College
→ Botanic Garden and Magdalen College
Oriel College
Merton College
Corpus Christi College
QUEEN'S LANE
CATTE STREET
LANE
HIGH STREET
LOGIC LANE
MAGPIE LANE
ORIEL STREET
MERTON STREET
BEAR LANE
DEAD MAN'S WALK

★ Christ Church
Students still eat at long tables in all the college halls. Senior academics sit at the high table and grace is almost always said in Latin.

A bust on the Sheldonian Theatre

Exploring Oxford

Oxford is more than just a university city; it has one of Britain's most important car factories in the suburb of Cowley. Despite this, Oxford is dominated by institutions related to its huge academic community: like Blackwell's bookshop which has over 20,000 titles in stock. The two rivers, the Cherwell and the Isis (the name given to the Thames as it flows through the city), provide lovely riverside walks, or you can hire a punt and spend an afternoon on the Cherwell.

🏛 Ashmolean Museum

Beaumont St. ***Tel*** *01865 278002.*
○ *Tue–Sun (Sun pm only) & public hols.* ● *1 Jan, Good Fri, 25–28 Dec.*
♿ ☞ *Tue, Fri, Sat.* ☕ 🛍
www.ashmolean.org

One of the best museums in Britain outside London, the Ashmolean – the first purpose-built museum in England – opened in 1683, based on a display known as "The Ark" collected by the two John Tradescants, father and son.

On their many voyages to the Orient and the Americas they collected stuffed animals and tribal artifacts. On their death, the collection was acquired by the antiquarian Elias Ashmole, who donated it to the university and had a building made for the exhibits on Broad Street – the Old Ashmolean, now the Museum of the History of Science. In the 1800s, part of the Tradescant collection was moved to the University Galleries, a Neo-Classical building of 1845. This greatly expanded museum is now known as the Ashmolean.

What is left of the original curio collection is overshadowed by the other exhibits in the museum, in particular the paintings. These include Bellini's *St Jerome Reading in a Landscape* (late 15th century); Raphael's *Heads of Two Apostles* (1519); Turner's *Venice: The Grand Canal* (1840); Rembrandt's *Saskia Asleep* (1635); Michelangelo's *Crucifixion* (1557), Picasso's *Blue Roofs* (1901) and a large group of Pre-Raphaelites, including Rossetti and Millais. There are also fine Greek and Roman carvings and a collection of stringed musical instruments. Items of more local interest include a Rowlandson watercolour of Radcliffe Square in about 1790 and the Oxford Crown. This silver coin was minted here during the Civil War in 1644 *(see p52)* and forms part of the second-largest coin collection in Britain. Perhaps the single most important item is the gold enamelled ring known as the Alfred Jewel *(see p47)*, which is over 1,000 years old.

The entrance to the Ashmolean Museum

A building designed by Rick Mather, which opened in 2009 provides the museum with twice as much space as it previously had.

🍁 The University of Oxford Botanic Garden

Rose Lane. ***Tel*** *01865 286690.*
○ *daily.* ● *Good Fri, 25 Dec.*
🎟 *Mar–Oct.* **Donation** *Nov–Feb.*
♿ **www**.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk

Britain's oldest botanic garden was founded in 1621 – one ancient yew tree survives from that period. The entrance gates were designed by Nicholas Stone in 1633 and paid for, like the garden itself, by the Earl of Danby. His statue adorns the gate, along with those of Charles I and II. This delightful garden has an original walled garden, a more recent herbaceous border and rock garden, and an insectivorous house.

The 17th-century Botanic Gardens

Carfax Tower

Carfax Sq. ***Tel*** *01865 790522.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* 🎟 🛍

The tower is all that remains of the 14th-century Church of St Martin, demolished in 1896 so that the adjoining road could be widened. Be there to watch the clock strike the quarter hours, and climb the 99 steps to the top for panoramic views of the city. Carfax was the crossing point of the original north-to-south and east-to-west routes through Oxford, and the word comes from the French *quatre voies,*

Holywell Music Room

Holywell St. ○ *concerts only.* 🎟 ♿

This was the first building in Europe designed, in 1752, specifically for public musical performances. Previously, concerts had been held in private houses for invited guests only. Its two splendid chandeliers originally adorned Westminster Hall at the coronation of George IV in 1820, and were given by the king to Wadham College, of which the music room technically forms a part. The room is regularly used for contemporary and classical concerts.

Museum of Oxford

St Aldates. ***Tel*** *01865 252761.* ○ *call to check times.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec, 31 Dec.* 🛍

A well-organized display in the Victorian town hall illustrates the long history of Oxford and its university. Exhibits include a Roman pottery kiln. The main features are a series of well-reconstructed rooms, including one from an Elizabethan inn and an 18th-century student's room.

Martyrs' Memorial

Magdalen St.

This commemorates the three Protestants burned at the stake on Broad Street – Bishops Latimer and Ridley in 1555, and Archbishop Cranmer in 1556. On the accession of Queen Mary in 1553 *(see p51)*, they were committed to the Tower of London, then sent to Oxford to defend their views before the doctors of divinity who, after the hearing, condemned them as heretics.

The memorial was designed in 1843 by George Gilbert Scott and based on the Eleanor crosses erected in 12 English towns by Edward I (1239–1307) to honour his queen.

Oxford Castle

44–46 Oxford Castle. ***Tel*** *01865 260666.* ○ *daily.* ♿ ☕ 🛍

Following a £40-million development, this 1,000-year-old castle opened in 2005. It forms part of an urban space that includes shops, restaurants and a hotel.

Oxford Castle Unlocked

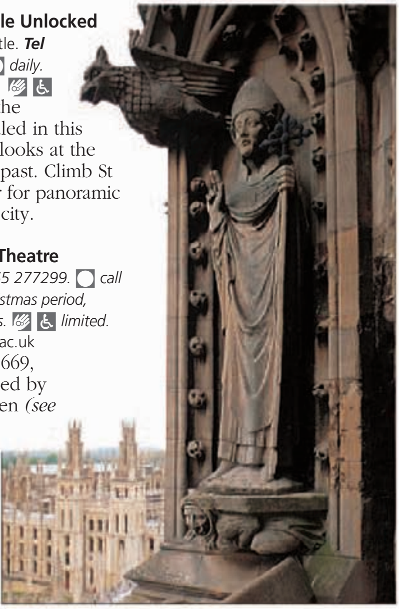
44–46 Oxford Castle. ***Tel*** *01865 260666.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🛍 ☕ 📷 ♿

The secrets of the castle are revealed in this exhibition that looks at the site's turbulent past. Climb St George's Tower for panoramic views over the city.

Sheldonian Theatre

Broad St. ***Tel*** *01865 277299.* ○ *call for details.* ● *Christmas period, Easter & public hols.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* **www**.sheldon.ox.ac.uk

Completed in 1669, this was designed by Christopher Wren *(see p114)*, and paid for by Gilbert Sheldon, the Archbishop of Canterbury, as a location for university degree ceremonies. The Classical design of the D-shaped building is based on the Theatre of Marcellus in Rome. The octagonal cupola was built in 1838 and boasts a famous view from its huge Lantern. The theatre's painted ceiling depicts the triumph of religion, art and science over envy, hatred and malice.



Thomas Cranmer statue, St Mary the Virgin Church

St Mary the Virgin Church

High St. ***Tel*** *01865 279111.* ○ *daily.* ● *Good Fri, 25, 26 Dec.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.university-church.ox.ac.uk

This, the official university church, is said to be the most visited parish church in England. The oldest parts date from the early 13th century and include the tower, from which there are fine views. Its Convocation House served as the university's first library until the Bodleian was founded in 1488 *(see p227)*. The church is where the three Oxford Martyrs were pronounced heretics in 1555. An architectural highlight is the Baroque south porch.

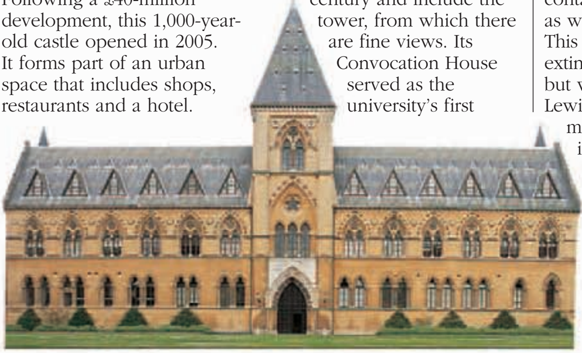
University Museum

Parks Rd. ***Tel*** *01865 272950.* ○ *daily.* ● *Easter, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🛍 **www**.oum.ox.ac.uk

Pitt Rivers Museum

Parks Rd. ***Tel*** *01865 270927.* ○ *daily.* ● *Easter, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🛍 **www**.prm.ox.ac.uk

Two of Oxford's most interesting museums adjoin each other. The first is a museum of natural history containing relics of dinosaurs as well as a stuffed dodo. This flightless bird has been extinct since the 17th century, but was immortalized by Lewis Carroll (an Oxford mathematics lecturer) in his book *Alice in Wonderland*. The Pitt Rivers Museum has an extensive ethnographic collection – masks and totems from Africa and the Far East – and archaeological displays, including exhibits collected by the explorer Captain Cook.



The impressive frontage of the University Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum

Exploring Oxford University

Many of the 36 colleges which go to make up the university were founded between the 13th and 16th centuries and cluster around the city centre. As scholarship was then the exclusive preserve of the church, the colleges were designed along the lines of monastic buildings but were often surrounded by beautiful gardens. Although most colleges have been altered over the years, many still incorporate a lot of their original features.

The spectacular view of All Souls College from St Mary's Church

All Souls College

Founded in 1438 on the High Street by Henry VI, the chapel on the college's north side has a classic hammerbeam roof, unusual misericords *(see p341)* on the choir stalls and 15th-century stained glass.

Christ Church College

The best way to view this, the largest of the Oxford colleges, is to approach through the meadows from St Aldate's. Christ Church dates from 1525 when Cardinal Wolsey founded it as an ecclesiastical college to train cardinals. The upper part of the tower in Tom Quad – a rectangular courtyard – was built by Wren *(see p114)* in 1682 and is the largest in the city. When its bell, Great Tom, was hung in 1648, the college had 101 students, which is why the bell is rung 101 times at 9:05pm, to mark the curfew for students (which has not been enforced since 1963). The odd timing is because night falls here five minutes later than at Greenwich *(see p125)*. Christ Church has produced 13 British prime ministers in the last 200 years. Beside the main quad is the 12th-century Christ Church Cathedral, one of the smallest in England.

Lincoln College

One of the best-preserved of the medieval colleges, it was founded in 1427 on Turl Street, and the front quad and façade are 15th century. The hall still has its original roof, including the gap where smoke used to escape. The Jacobean chapel is notable for its stained glass. John Wesley *(see p279)* was at college here and his rooms, now a chapel, can be visited.

Magdalen College

At the end of the High Street is perhaps the most typical and beautiful Oxford college. Its 15th-century quads in contrasting styles are set in a park by the Cherwell, crossed by Magdalen Bridge. Every May Day at 6am, the college choir sings from the top of Magdalen's bell tower (1508) – a 16th-century custom to mark the start of summer.

New College

One of the grandest colleges, it was founded by William of Wykeham in 1379 to educate clergy to replace those killed by the Black Death of 1348 *(see p49)*. Its magnificent chapel on New College Lane, restored in the 19th century, has vigorous 14th-century misericords and El Greco's (1541–1614) famous painting of *St James*.

Magdalen Bridge spanning the River Cherwell

Queen's College

Most of the college buildings date from the 18th century and represent some of the finest work from that period in Oxford. Its superb library was built in 1695 by Henry Aldrich (1647–1710) The front screen with its bell-topped gatehouse is a feature of the High Street.

STUDENT LIFE

Students belong to individual colleges and usually live in them for the duration of their course. The university gives lectures, sets exams and awards degrees but much of the students' tuition and social life is based around their college. Many university traditions date back hundreds of years, like the graduation ceremonies at the Sheldonian, which are still held in Latin.

Graduation at the Sheldonian *(see p224)*

Merton College seen from Christ Church Meadows

St John's College
The impressive frontage on St Giles dates from 1437, when it was founded for Cistercian scholars. The old library has lovely 17th-century bookcases and stained glass, while the Baylie Chapel has a display of 15th-century vestments.

Trinity College
The oldest part of the college on Broad Street, Durham Quad, is named after the earlier college of 1296, which was incorporated into Trinity in 1555. The late 17th-century chapel has a magnificent reredos and wooden screen.

Corpus Christi College
The whole of the charming front quad on Merton Street dates from 1517, when the college was founded. The quad's sundial, topped by a pelican – the college symbol – bears an early 17th-century calendar. The chapel has a rare 16th-century eagle lectern.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

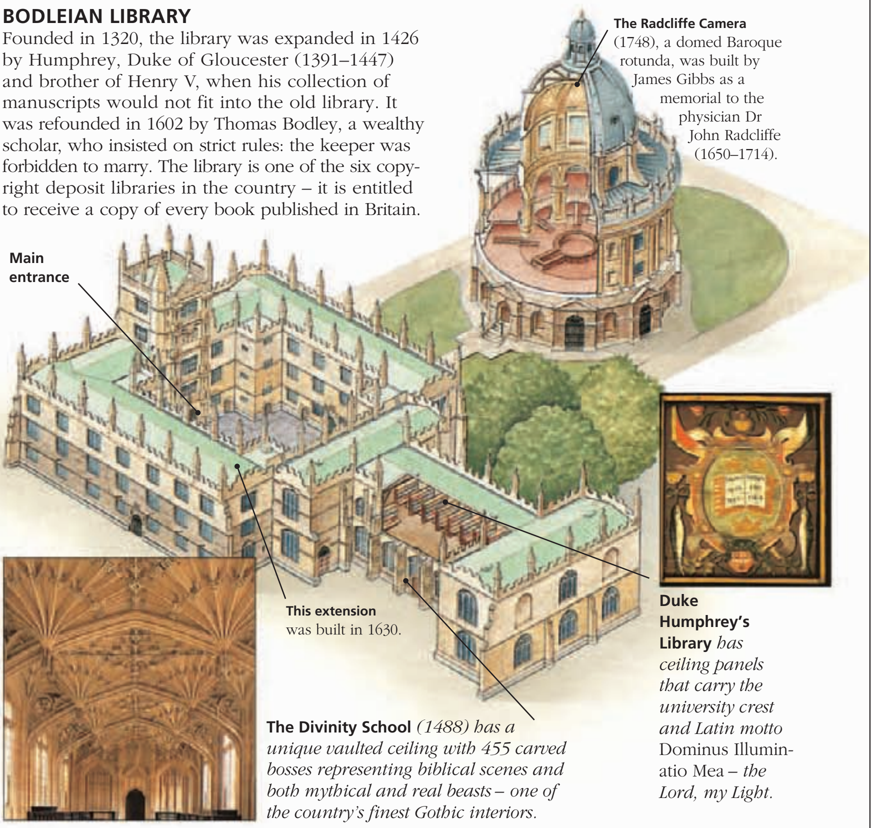
Oxford Colleges can usually be visited from 2–5pm daily all year, but there are no set opening hours. See noticeboards outside each college entrance to check opening times.

Bodleian Library (Duke Humphrey's Library & Divinity School), Broad St. ***Tel*** *01865 277224.* ○ *9am–5pm Mon–Fri, 9am–4:45pm Sat.* ● *23 Dec–3 Jan, Easter.* ✋ ☞ ♿
www.bodley.ox.ac.uk

Merton College
Off Merton Street, this is the oldest college (1264) in Oxford. Much of its hall dates from then, including a sturdy decorated door. The chapel choir contains allegorical reliefs representing music, arithmetic, rhetoric and grammar. Merton's Mob Quad served as a model for the later colleges.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY

Founded in 1320, the library was expanded in 1426 by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester (1391–1447) and brother of Henry V, when his collection of manuscripts would not fit into the old library. It was refounded in 1602 by Thomas Bodley, a wealthy scholar, who insisted on strict rules: the keeper was forbidden to marry. The library is one of the six copyright deposit libraries in the country – it is entitled to receive a copy of every book published in Britain.



The Radcliffe Camera (1748), a domed Baroque rotunda, was built by James Gibbs as a memorial to the physician Dr John Radcliffe (1650–1714).

Main entrance

This extension was built in 1630.

Duke Humphrey's Library *has ceiling panels that carry the university crest and Latin motto* Dominus Illuminatio Mea – *the Lord, my Light.*

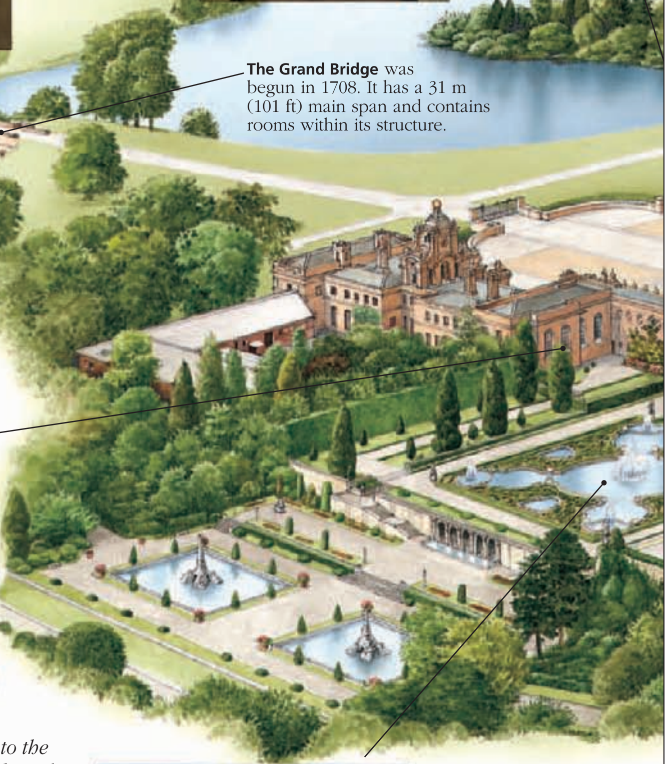
The Divinity School *(1488) has a unique vaulted ceiling with 455 carved bosses representing biblical scenes and both mythical and real beasts – one of the country's finest Gothic interiors.*

Blenheim Palace ⑥

After John Churchill, the 1st Duke of Marlborough, defeated the French at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704, Queen Anne gave him the Manor of Woodstock and had this palatial house built for him in gratitude. Designed by both Nicholas Hawksmoor and Sir John Vanbrugh *(see p398),* it is a Baroque masterpiece. It was also the birthplace of Britain's World War II leader, Winston Churchill, in 1874.

Winston Churchill and his wife, Clementine

★ Long Library
This 55 m (183 ft) room was designed by Vanbrugh as a picture gallery. The portraits include one of Queen Anne by Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646–1723). The stucco on the ceiling is by Isaac Mansfield (1725).



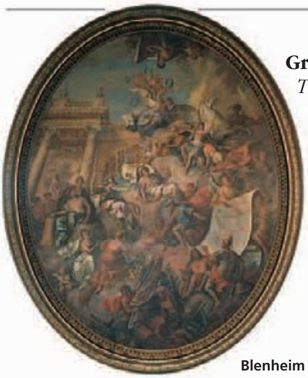
The Grand Bridge was begun in 1708. It has a 31 m (101 ft) main span and contains rooms within its structure.

Chapel
The marble monument to the 1st Duke of Marlborough and his family was sculpted by Michael Rysbrack in 1733.

Water Terraces
These magnificent gardens were laid out in the 1920s by French architect Achille Duchêne in 17th-century style, with detailed patterned beds and fountains.

STAR SIGHTS

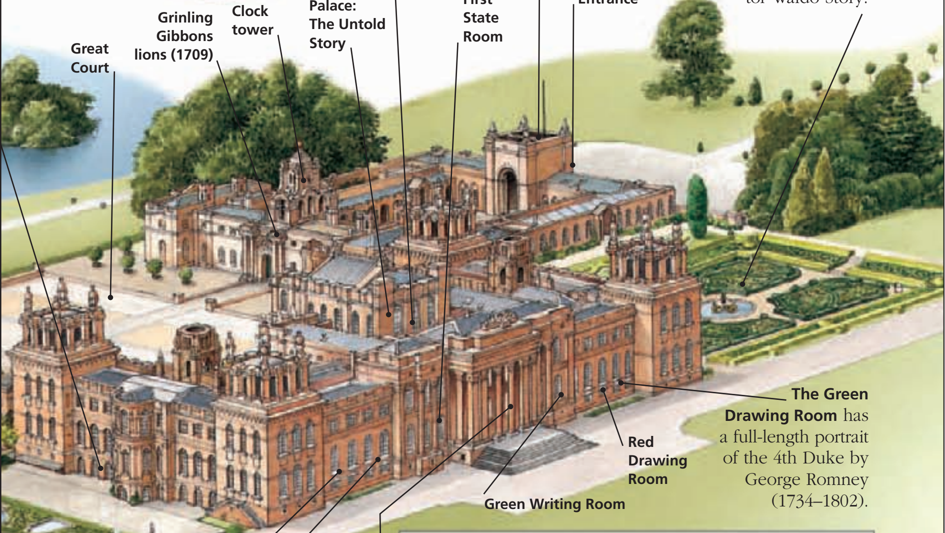
- ★ Long Library
- ★ Saloon
- ★ Park and Gardens



Great Hall
This splendid ceiling by Thornhill in 1716, shows the 1st Duke of Marlborough presenting his plan for the Battle of Blenheim to Britannia.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Woodstock, Oxfordshire. ***Tel*** *0800 849 6500.* 🚌 *from Oxford.* ⇌ *Oxford.* **Palace & Gardens** ○ *Feb–Oct: 10:30am–5:30pm daily; Nov & Dec: Wed–Sun.* **Park** ○ *9am–5pm daily.* ⚐ ☐ *The Untold Story.* 🍴 ☐ ♿ *limited.* **www**.blenheimpalace.com

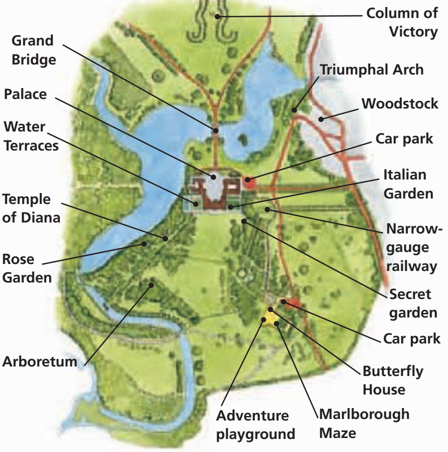

Great Court
Grinling Gibbons lions (1709)
Clock tower
Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story
First State Room
East gate
Entrance
Red Drawing Room
Green Writing Room
Second State Room
Third State Room

The Italian Garden contains the Mermaid Fountain (early 1900s) by US sculptor Waldo Story.

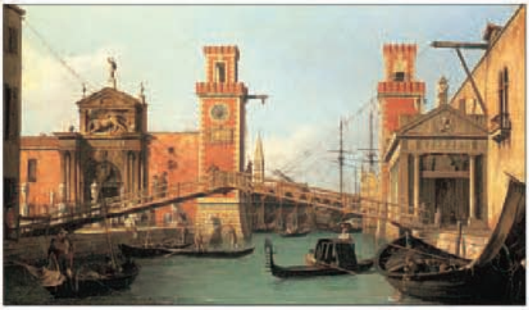
The Green Drawing Room has a full-length portrait of the 4th Duke by George Romney (1734–1802).

★ Saloon
French artist Louis Laguerre (1663–1721) painted the detailed scenes on the walls and ceiling.

★ PARK AND GARDENS


Column of Victory
Grand Bridge
Triumphal Arch
Woodstock
Palace
Water Terraces
Car park
Italian Garden
Temple of Diana
Narrow-gauge railway
Rose Garden
Secret garden
Car park
Arboretum
Butterfly House
Adventure playground
Marlborough Maze

A house fit for a victorious general had to be surrounded by a park with suitably heroic monuments. They were kept when "Capability" Brown *(see p26)* re-landscaped the park (1764–74) and created the lake.



Canaletto's Entrance to the Arsenal **(1730) hangs at Woburn Abbey**

Stowe Gardens ⑦

(NT) Buckingham, Buckinghamshire. ***Tel*** *01494 755568.* 🚆 *Milton Keynes then bus.* ○ *Mar–Nov: Wed–Sun; Dec–Feb: Sat & Sun, public hols.* **Stowe House** ○ *Access may be restricted due to a 20-year restoration project.* ✋ ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowegardens

This is the most ambitious and important landscaped garden in Britain, as well as being one of the finest examples of the 18th-century passion for improving on nature to make it conform to fashionable notions of taste.

In the space of nearly 100 years the original garden, first laid out around 1680, was enlarged and transformed by the addition of monuments, Greek and Gothic temples, grottoes, statues, ornamental bridges, artificial lakes and "natural" tree plantings.

Most of the leading designers and architects of the period contributed to the design, including Sir John Vanbrugh, James Gibbs and "Capability" Brown *(see p26).*

From 1593 to 1921 the property was owned by the Temple and Grenville families – later the Dukes of Buckingham – until the large Palladian house at its centre was converted into an elite boys' school.

The family were soldiers and politicians in the liberal tradition, and many of the buildings and sculptures in the garden symbolize Utopian ideals of democracy and freedom. Some features deteriorated in the 19th century but a major restoration programme has returned much of the statuary to its former glory.

Woburn Abbey ⑧

Woburn, Bedfordshire. ***Tel*** *01525 290333.* 🚆 *Flitwick then taxi.* ○ *Mar–Sep: daily.* ● *Oct–Feb.* **Grounds** ○ *daily.* 🛍 ✋ ♿ *ring first.* ☞ *by arrangement.* 🍴 **www**.woburnabbey.co.uk

The Dukes of Bedford have lived here for over 350 years and were among the first owners of an English stately home to open their house to the public some 40 years ago.

The abbey was built in the mid-18th century on the foundations of a large 12th-century Cistercian monastery. Its mix of styles range from Henry Flitcroft and Henry Holland *(see p28).* The abbey's grounds are also popular for their 142-ha (350-acre) safari park and attractive deer park, home to nine species including the Manchurian Sika deer from China.

The home's magnificent state apartments house an important private art collection which includes works by Reynolds (1723–92) and Canaletto (1697–1768).

Waddesdon Manor ⑨

Nr Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. ***Tel*** *01296 653226.* 🚆 *Aylesbury then taxi.* **House** ○ *Mar–Dec: Wed–Sun; Jan–Feb: Sat & Sun.* **Grounds** ○ *Mar–23 Dec: 10am–5pm Wed–Sun & bank hol Mon.* ✋ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.waddesdon.org.uk

Waddesdon Manor was built between 1874–89 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild and designed by French architect Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur.

Built in the style of a French 16th-century chateau, the manor houses one of the world's finest collections of French 18th-century decorative art as well as Savonnierie carpets and Sèvres porcelain.

The garden, originally laid out by French landscape gardener Elie Lainé, is renowned for its seasonal displays.

Roald Dahl Museum ⑩

81–83 High St, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. ***Tel*** *01494 892192.* 🚆 *Great Missenden.* ○ *10am–5pm Tue–Fri, 11am–5pm Sat & Sun.* 🛍 ✋ ♿ **www**.roalddahlmuseum.org

The magical world of Roald Dahl's stories comes to life in this award-winning museum. A series of biographical galleries explore the life and work of the children's writer, while the Story Centre's interactive exhibits allow children to make their own animation film, record dreams in a "dream bottle" or try their hand at creative writing.

The 17th-century Palladian bridge over the Octagon Lake in Stowe Park

Hatfield House, one of the largest Jacobean mansions in the country

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo ⓫

Nr Dunstable, Bedfordshire. ***Tel*** *01582 872171.* ⇄ *Hemel Hempsted or Luton then bus.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 📷 ♿ 🖥 **www**.zsl.org

The rural branch of London Zoo, this was one of the first zoos to minimize the use of cages, confining animals safely but without constriction.

At 240 ha (600 acres), it is Europe's largest conservation park, with more than 2,500 species. You can drive through some areas or go by steam train. Also popular are the adventure playground, the Cheetah Rock exhibit and the sea lions' underwater display.

Knebworth House ⓬

Knebworth, Hertfordshire. ***Tel*** *01438 812661.* ⇄ *Stevenage then taxi.* ○ *Sat, Sun; two weeks at Easter: daily; Jul–Aug: daily.* 🛍 📷 ♿ *limited.* ☞ 🖥 **www**.knebworthhouse.com

A notable Tudor mansion, with a beautiful Jacobean banqueting hall, Knebworth was overlain with a 19th-century Victorian Gothic exterior by Lord Lytton, the head of the family. His eldest son, the 1st Earl of Lytton, was Viceroy of India, and exhibits illustrate the Delhi Durbar of 1877, when Queen Victoria became Empress of India.

A visit includes the house, gardens, park, and a dinosaur trail for children.

Hatfield House ⓭

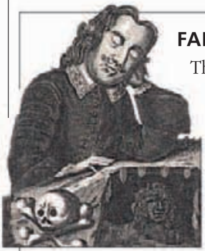
Hatfield, Hertfordshire. ***Tel*** *01707 287010.* ⇄ *Hatfield.* ○ *Easter Sat–Sep: Wed–Sun & public hols.* 🛍 📷 ♿ 🍴 **www**.hatfield-house.co.uk

One of England's finest Jacobean houses, Hatfield House was built between 1607 and 1611 for the powerful statesman Robert Cecil.

Its chief historical interest, though, lies in the surviving wing of the original Tudor Hatfield Palace, where Queen Elizabeth I *(see pp50–51)* spent much of her childhood. She held her first Council of State here when she was crowned in 1558. The palace was partly demolished in 1607 to make way for the new house, which contains mementoes of her life, including the *Rainbow* portrait painted around 1600 by Isaac Oliver. Visitors can attend medieval banquets in the old palace's Great Hall.

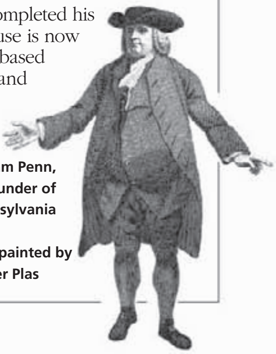
Originally laid out by Robert Cecil with help from John Tradescant, the gardens have been restored to reflect these Jacobean origins.

FAMOUS PURITANS

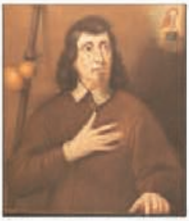


18th-century engraving of John Bunyan

Three major figures connected with the 17th-century Puritan movement are celebrated in the Thames area. John Bunyan (1628–88), who wrote the allegorical tale *The Pilgrim's Progress,* was born at Elstow, near Bedford. A passionate Puritan orator, he was jailed for his beliefs for 17 years. The Bunyan Museum in Bedford is a former site of Puritan worship. William Penn (1644–1718), founder of Pennsylvania in the USA, lived, worshipped and is buried at Jordans, near Beaconsfield. A bit further north at Chalfont St Giles is the cottage where the poet John Milton (1608–74) stayed to escape London's plague. There he completed his greatest work, *Paradise Lost*. The house is now a museum based on his life and works.

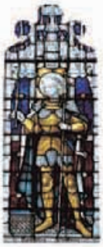


William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania



John Milton painted by Pieter van der Plas

St Albans ⑭



The martyr St Alban

Today a thriving market town and a base for London commuters, St Albans was for centuries at the heart of some of the most stirring events in English history. A regional capital of ancient Britain, it became a major Roman settlement and then a key ecclesiastical centre – so important that during the Wars of the Roses *(see p49),* two battles were fought for it. In 1455 the Yorkists drove King Henry VI from the town and six years later the Lancastrians retook it.

Exploring St Albans

Part of the appeal of this ancient and fascinating town, little more than an hour's drive from London, is that its 2,000-year history can be traced vividly by visiting a few sites within easy walking distance of one another. There is a large car park within the walls of the Roman city of Verulamium, between the museum and St Michael's Church and across the road from the excavated theatre. From there it is a pleasant lakeside walk across the park, passing more Roman sites, Ye Olde Fighting Cocks inn, the massive cathedral and the historic High Street. Marking the centre of the town, the High Street is lined with several Tudor buildings and a clock tower dating from 1412, from which the curfew bell used to ring at 4am in the morning and 8:30pm at night.

Verulamium

Just outside the city centre are the walls of Verulamium, one of the first British cities the Romans established after their invasion of Britain in AD 43. Boadicea *(see p195)* razed it to the ground during her unsuccessful rebellion against the Romans in AD 62, but its position on Watling Street, an important trading route, meant that it was quickly rebuilt on an even larger scale and the city flourished until 410.

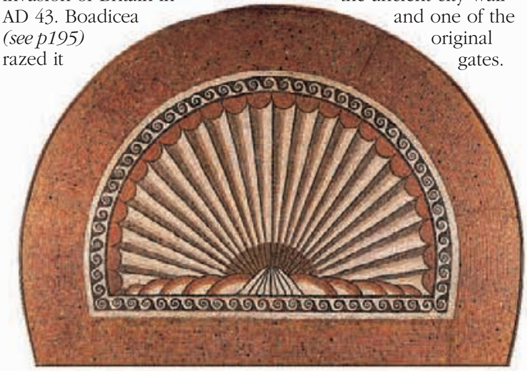
Verulamium Museum

St Michael's St. ***Tel*** *01727 751810.*
○ *daily (pm only Sun).* ● *25 Dec–2 Jan.* 💷 ♿ 🛍 **www**.stalbansmuseum.org.uk

This excellent museum tells the story of the city, but its main attraction is its splendid collection of well-preserved Roman artefacts, notably some breathtaking mosaic floors, including one depicting the head of a sea god, and another of a scallop shell. Other finds included burial urns and lead coffins.

On the basis of excavated plaster fragments, a Roman room has been painstakingly recreated, its walls painted in startlingly bright colours and geometric patterns.

Between here and St Albans Cathedral are a bath house with a mosaic, remnants of the ancient city wall and one of the original gates.



A scallop shell, one of the mosaic floors at the Verulamium Museum

Ye Olde Fighting Cocks

Abbey Mill Lane. ***Tel*** *01727 869152.*
○ *daily.* ♿

Believed to be England's oldest surviving pub, Ye Olde Fighting Cocks is certainly, with its octagonal shape, one of the most unusual. It originated as the medieval dovecote of the old abbey and moved here after the Dissolution *(see p50).*

YE OLDE FIGHTING COCKS

One of the oldest surviving pubs in England

Roman Theatre

Bluehouse Hill. ***Tel*** *01727 835035.*
○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25, 26 Dec.* 💷 🛍 **www**.romantheatre.co.uk

Just across the road from the museum are the foundations of the open-air theatre, first built around AD 140 but enlarged several times. It is one of only six known to have been built in Roman Britain. Alongside it are traces of a row of Roman shops and a house, from which many of the museum's treasures – such as a bronze statuette of Venus – were excavated in the 1930s.

St Michael's Church

St Michael's. ***Tel*** *01727 835037.*
○ *Apr–Sep: phone for details.* ♿

This church was first founded during the Saxon reign and is built partly with bricks taken from Verulamium, which by then was in decline. Numerous additions have been made since then, including a truly splendid Jacobean pulpit.

The church contains an early 17th-century monument to the statesman and writer Sir Francis Bacon; his father owned nearby Gorhambury, a large Tudor house, now in ruins.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

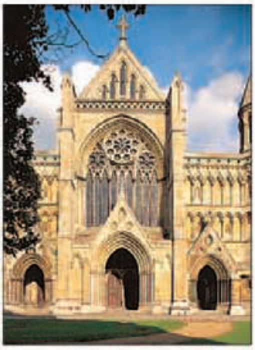
Hertfordshire. 👥 *129,000.*
✈ 🚆 ℹ *Market Pl (01727 864511).* 🛒 *Wed, Sat.*
www.stalbans.gov.uk

⛪ St Albans Cathedral

Sumpter Yard. ***Tel** 01727 860780.*
○ *daily.* ♿ ☞ *11:30am & 2:30pm.*
www.stalbanscathedral.org.uk

This outstanding example of medieval architecture has some classic features such as the 13th- and 14th-century wall paintings on the Norman piers.

It was begun in 793, when King Offa of Mercia founded the abbey in honour of St Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr, put to death by the Romans in the third century for sheltering a priest. The oldest parts, which still stand, were first built in 1077 and are easily recognizable as Norman by the round-headed arches and windows. They form part of the 84 m (276 ft) nave – the longest in England.



The imposing west side of St Albans Cathedral

The pointed arches further east are Early English (13th century), while the decorated work of the 14th century was added when some of the Norman arches collapsed.

East of the crossing is what remains of St Alban's shrine – a marble pedestal made up of more than 2,000 tiny fragments. Next to it is the tomb of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester *(see p227).*

It was here at the cathedral that the English barons drafted the *Magna Carta* document *(see p48),* which King John was then forced to sign.

The splendour of the Gardens of the Rose in June

Gardens of the Rose ⑮

Chiswell Green, Hertfordshire. ***Tel** 01727 850461.* 🚆 *St Albans then bus.* ○ *Jun–Sep: daily, but always call ahead.* ● *sometimes Mon, Tue.* 🛍 📷 ♿ ☕ **www**.rnrs.org

As well as being England's national symbol, the rose is the most popular flower with British gardeners.

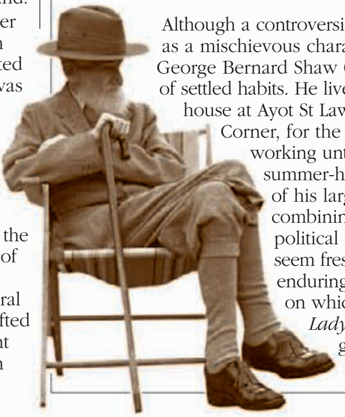
The 5 ha (12 acre) garden of the Royal National Rose Society, with over 30,000 plants and 1,700 varieties, is at its peak in late June. The gardens trace the history of the flower as far back as the white rose of York, the red rose of Lancaster *(see p49)* and the Rosa Mundi – named by Henry II for his mistress Fair Rosamond after she was poisoned by Queen Eleanor in 1177. In 2005–7 the gardens were extensively redeveloped by leading garden designer Michael Balston.

Hughenden Manor ⑯

(NT) High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. ***Tel** 01494 755565.* 🚆 *High Wycombe then bus.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Wed–Sun, 2 weeks in Dec.* ● *Good Fri.* 🛍 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🍴

The Victorian statesman and novelist Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister from 1874 to 1880, lived here for 33 years until his death. Originally a Georgian villa, Disraeli adapted it in 1862 to the Gothic style. Furnished as it was in his day, the house gives an idea of the life of a wealthy Victorian gentleman and shows some portraits of his contemporaries.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



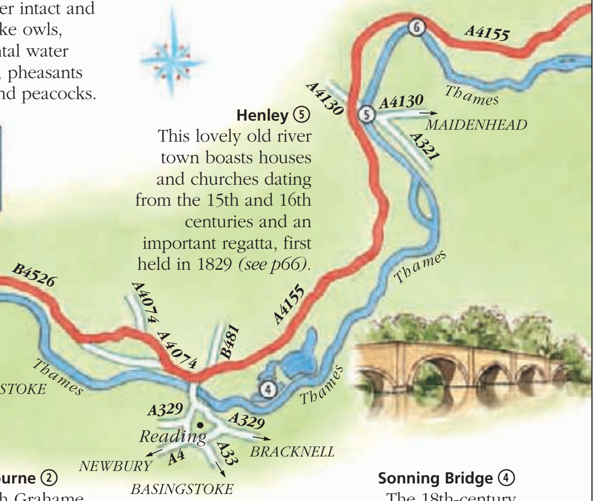
Although a controversial playwright and known as a mischievous character, the Irish-born George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950) was a man of settled habits. He lived near St Albans in a house at Ayot St Lawrence, now called Shaw's Corner, for the last 44 years of his life, working until his last weeks in a summer-house at the bottom of his large garden. His plays, combining wit with a powerful political and social message, still seem fresh today. One of the most enduring is *Pygmalion* (1913), on which the musical *My Fair Lady* is based. The house and garden are now a museum of his life and works.

Touring the Thames ⓱

The Thames between Pangbourne and Eton is leafy and romantic and best seen by boat. But if time is short, the road keeps close to its bank for much of the way. Swans glide gracefully below ancient bridges, voles dive into the water for cover, and elegant herons stand impassive at the river's edge. Huge beech trees overhang the banks which are lined with fine houses, their gardens sloping to the water. The tranquil scene has inspired painters and writers through the ages as well as operating, until recently, as an important transport link.

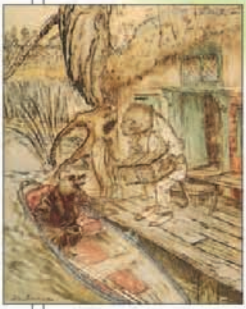
Hambledon Mill ⑥
The white weather-boarded mill, which was operational until 1955, is one of the largest on the Thames as well as one of the oldest in origin. There are traces of the original 16th-century mill.

Beale Park ①
The philanthropist Gilbert Beale (1868–1967) created a 10 ha (25 acre) park to preserve this beautiful stretch of river intact and breed endangered birds like owls, ornamental water fowl, pheasants and peacocks.



Henley ⑤
This lovely old river town boasts houses and churches dating from the 15th and 16th centuries and an important regatta, first held in 1829 *(see p66)*.

Pangbourne ②
Kenneth Grahame (1859–1932), author of *The Wind in the Willows,* lived here. Pangbourne was used as the setting by artists Ernest Shepard in 1908 and Arthur Rackham in 1951 to illustrate the book.

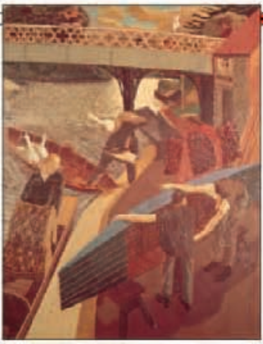


Sonning Bridge ④
The 18th-century bridge is made up of 11 brick arches of varying width.

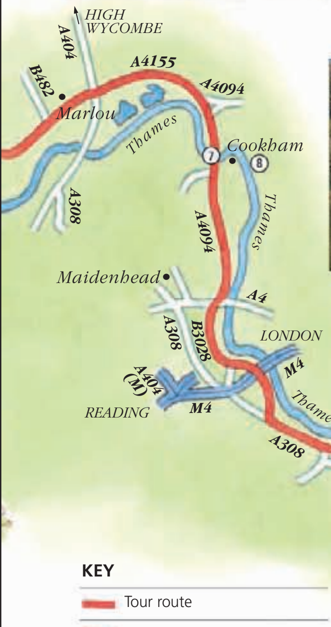
Whitchurch Mill ③
This charming village, linked to Pangbourne by a Victorian toll bridge, has a picturesque church and one of the many disused watermills that once harnessed the power of this stretch of river.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Tour length: *50 miles (75 km).*
Stopping-off points: *The picturesque town of Henley has a large number of riverside pubs which will make good stops for lunch. If you are boating you can often moor your boat alongside the river bank.* (See also pp684–5.)



Cookham ⑦
This is famous as the home of Stanley Spencer (1891–1959), one of Britain's leading 20th-century artists. The former Methodist chapel, where Spencer worshipped as a child, has been converted into a gallery that contains some of his paintings and equipment. This work, entitled *Swan Upping* (1914–19), recalls a Thames custom.



Cliveden Reach ⑧
The beech trees lining this attractive stretch of river are in the grounds of Cliveden House *(see p162)*.

Eton College ⑨
Founded by Henry VI in 1440, Eton is Britain's most famous public school. It has a superb Perpendicular chapel (1441) with a series of English wall paintings (1479–88).

KEY

- Tour route
- Other roads
- Viewpoint

0 kilometres 10

0 miles 5

Salter Bros hire boats, moored at Henley

BOATING TOURS

In summer, scheduled river services run between Henley, Windsor, Runnymede and Marlow. Several companies operate from towns along the route. You can hire boats by the hour or the day or, for a longer tour, you can rent cabin cruisers and sleep on board *(see also p689)*. Ring Salter Bros on 01753 865 832 for more information.

Windsor ⓲

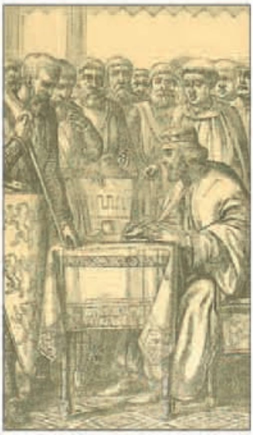
Berkshire. *30,000*
Windsor Royal Station (01753 743900). **www**.windsor.gov.uk

The town of Windsor is dwarfed by the enormous **castle** *(see pp236–7)* on the hill above – in fact its original purpose was to serve the castle's needs. The town is full of quaint Georgian shops, houses and inns. The most prominent building on the High Street is the **Guildhall** completed by Wren *(see p114)* in 1689, where Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles were married in 2005. **Eton College**, the most prestigious school in Britain, lies just a short walk away.

The huge 1,940-ha (4,800-acre) **Windsor Great Park** stretches from the castle three miles (5 km) to Snow Hill, where there is a statue of George III.

Environs: Four miles (7 km) to the southeast is the level grassy meadow, **Runnymede**. This is one of England's most historic sites, where in 1215 King John was forced by his rebellious barons to sign the *Magna Carta (see p48),* thereby limiting his royal powers. The dainty memorial pavilion at the top of the meadow was erected in 1957.

Eton College
Tel *01753 671177.* ◯ *mid-Mar–Oct: 10:30am–4:30pm. Always call ahead.* **www**.etoncollege.com



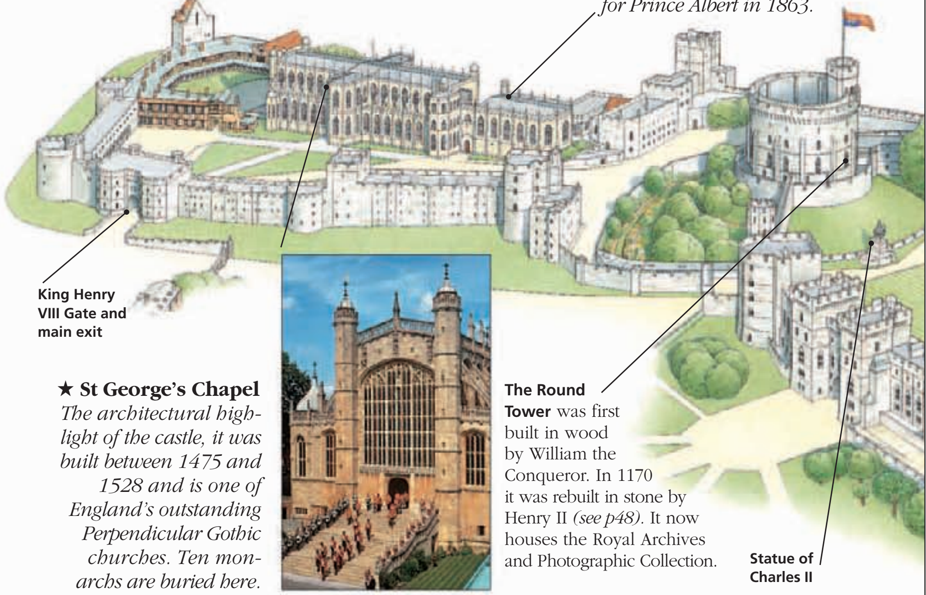
King John signing the *Magna Carta,* Runnymede

Windsor Castle

Henry II rebuilt the castle

The oldest continuously inhabited royal residence in Britain, the castle, originally made of wood, was built by William the Conqueror in around 1080 to guard the western approaches to London. He chose the site as it was on high ground and just a day's journey from his base in the Tower of London. Successive monarchs have made alterations that render it a remarkable monument to royalty's changing tastes. King George V's affection for it was shown when he chose Windsor for his family surname in 1917. The castle is an official residence of the Queen and her family who stay here many weekends.

Albert Memorial Chapel
First built in 1240, it was rebuilt in 1485 and finally converted into a memorial for Prince Albert in 1863.

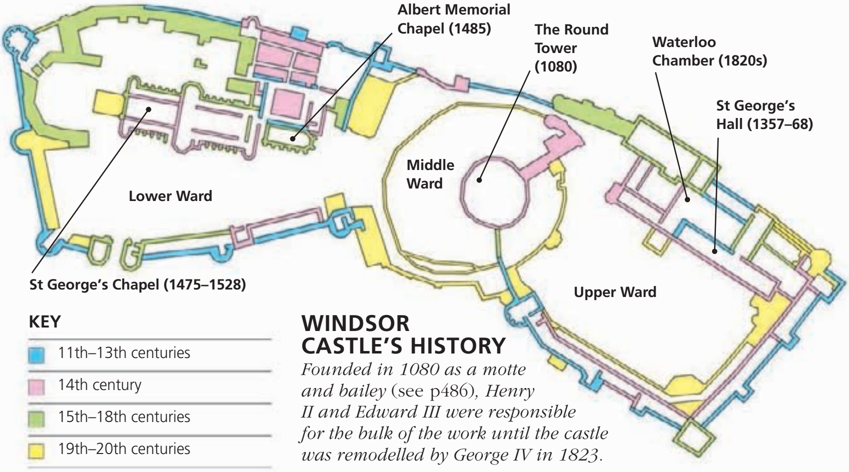


King Henry VIII Gate and main exit

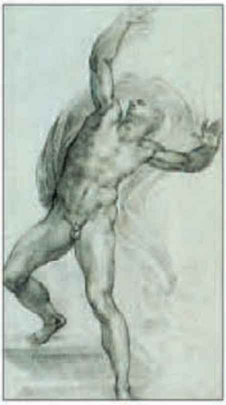
★ St George's Chapel
The architectural highlight of the castle, it was built between 1475 and 1528 and is one of England's outstanding Perpendicular Gothic churches. Ten monarchs are buried here.

The Round Tower was first built in wood by William the Conqueror. In 1170 it was rebuilt in stone by Henry II *(see p48)*. It now houses the Royal Archives and Photographic Collection.

Statue of Charles II


Albert Memorial Chapel (1485)
The Round Tower (1080)
Waterloo Chamber (1820s)
St George's Hall (1357–68)
Middle Ward
Lower Ward
Upper Ward
St George's Chapel (1475–1528)
KEY
🟦 11th–13th centuries
🟪 14th century
🟩 15th–18th centuries
🟨 19th–20th centuries

WINDSOR CASTLE'S HISTORY
Founded in 1080 as a motte and bailey (see p486)*, Henry II and Edward III were responsible for the bulk of the work until the castle was remodelled by George IV in 1823.*

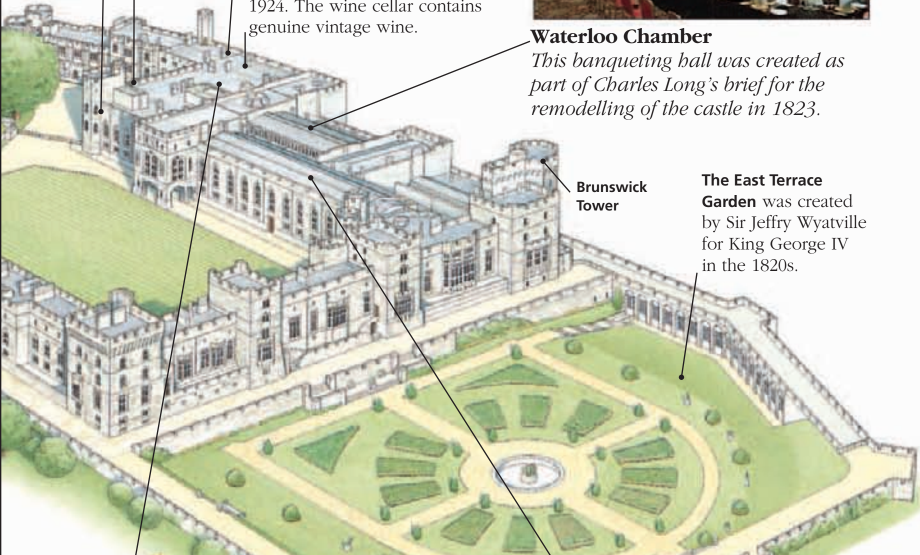


Drawings Gallery
This chalk etching of Christ by Michelangelo is part of the Royal Collection. Various pieces in the collection are on display here, including works by Holbein and Leonardo da Vinci among others.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Castle Hill. ***Tel*** *020 7766 7304.* ○ *9:45am–5:15pm (Nov–Feb: to 4:15pm). (Last adm: 1 hr 15 mins before close.)* ● *Good Fri, 25 & 26 Dec.* ✝ *St Georges Chapel (closed for services).* 🎧 ♿ **www**.royalcollection.org.uk

Waterloo Chamber
This banqueting hall was created as part of Charles Long's brief for the remodelling of the castle in 1823.



The Audience Chamber is where the Queen greets her guests.

The Queen's Ballroom

Queen Mary's Dolls' House, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was given to Queen Mary in 1924. The wine cellar contains genuine vintage wine.

Brunswick Tower

The East Terrace Garden was created by Sir Jeffry Wyatville for King George IV in the 1820s.

★ State Apartments
These rooms contain many treasures, such as this 18th-century bed in the King's State Bedchamber, hung in its present splendour for the visit in 1855 of Napoleon III.

STAR SIGHTS

★ St George's Chapel

★ State Apartments

The Fire of 1992
A devastating blaze began during maintenance work on the State Apartments. St George's Hall was destroyed but has been rebuilt.

THE WEST COUNTRY

INTRODUCING THE WEST COUNTRY 240–245

WESSEX 246–271

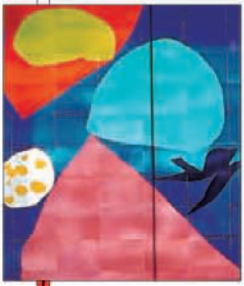
DEVON AND CORNWALL 272–295

The West Country at a Glance

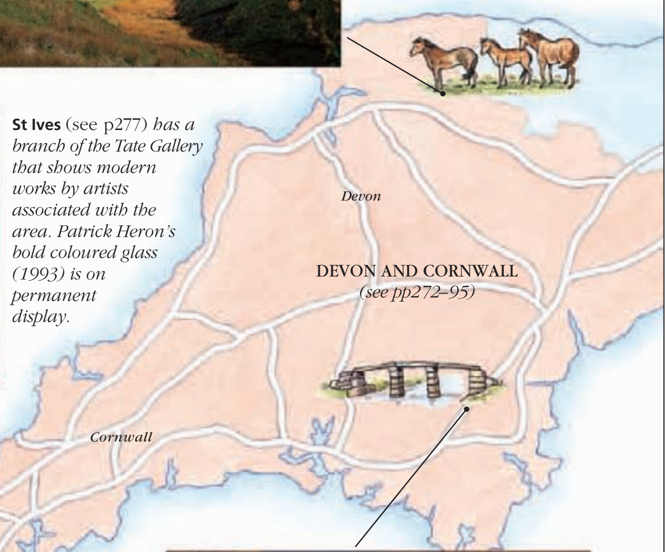
The West Country forms a long peninsula bounded by the Atlantic to the north and the English Channel to the south, tapering down to Land's End, mainland Britain's westernmost point. Whether exploring the great cities and cathedrals, experiencing the awesome solitude of the moors and their prehistoric monuments, or simply enjoying the miles of coastline and mild climate, this region has an enduring appeal for holiday-makers.

Wells (see pp252–3) *is a charming town nestling at the foot of the Mendip Hills. It is famous for its exquisite three-towered cathedral with an ornate west façade, featuring an array of statues. Alongside stand the moated Bishop's Palace and the 15th-century Vicar's Close.*

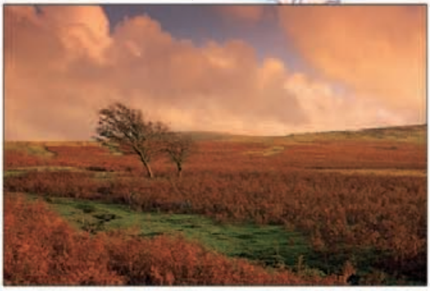
Exmoor's (see pp250–51) *heather-clad moors and wooded valleys, grazed by wild ponies and red deer, lead down to some of Devon and Somerset's most dramatic cliffs and coves.*



St Ives (see p277) *has a branch of the Tate Gallery that shows modern works by artists associated with the area. Patrick Heron's bold coloured glass (1993) is on permanent display.*



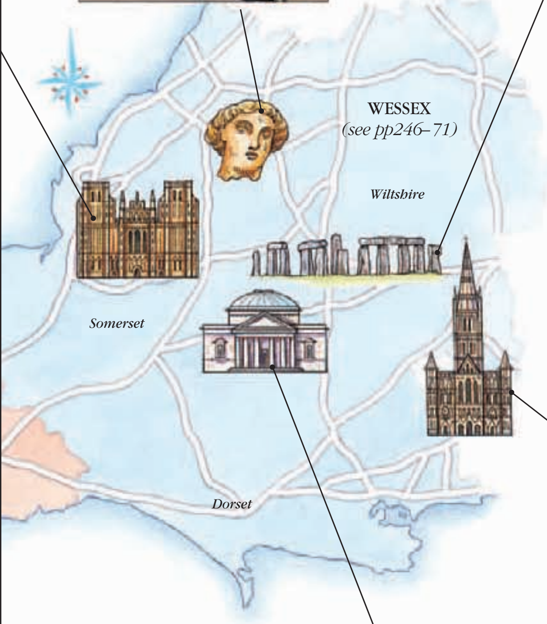
Dartmoor (see pp294–5) *is a wilderness of great natural beauty covering an area of 365 sq miles (945 sq km). Stone clapper bridges, picturesque villages and weathered granite tors punctuate the landscape.*



◁ **Stunning views of the Lizard Peninsula**

Bath (see pp258–9) *is named after the Roman baths that stand at the heart of the old city next to the splendid medieval abbey. It is one of Britain's liveliest and most rewarding cities, full of elegant Georgian terraces, built in local honey-coloured limestone by the two John Woods (Elder and Younger).*

Stonehenge (see pp262–3), *the world-famous prehistoric monument, was built in several stages from 3000 BC. Moving and erecting its massive stones was an extraordinary feat for its time. It is likely that this magical stone circle was a place of worship to the sun.*



Salisbury's (see pp264–5) *cathedral with its soaring spire was the inspiration for one of John Constable's best-loved paintings. The picturesque Cathedral Close has a number of fine medieval buildings.*

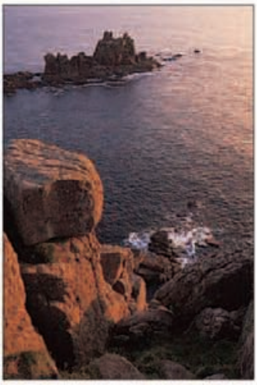
0 kilometres 25

0 miles 25

Stourhead *garden* (see pp266–7) *was inspired by the paintings of Claude and Poussin. Created in the 18th century, the garden is itself a work of art. Contrived vistas, light and shade and a mixture of landscape and gracious buildings, such as the Neo-Classical Pantheon at its centre, are vital to the overall effect.*

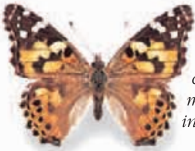
Coastal Wildlife

The long and varied West Country coastline, ranging from the stark, granite cliffs of Land's End to the pebble-strewn stretch of Chesil Bank, is matched with an equally diverse range of wildlife. Beaches are scattered with colourful shells, while rock pools form miniature marine habitats teeming with life. Caves are used by larger creatures, such as grey seals, and cliffs provide nest sites for birds. In the spring and early summer, an astonishing range of plants grow on the foreshore and cliffs which can be seen at their best from the Southwest Coastal Path *(see p36)*. The plants in turn attract numerous moths and butterflies.

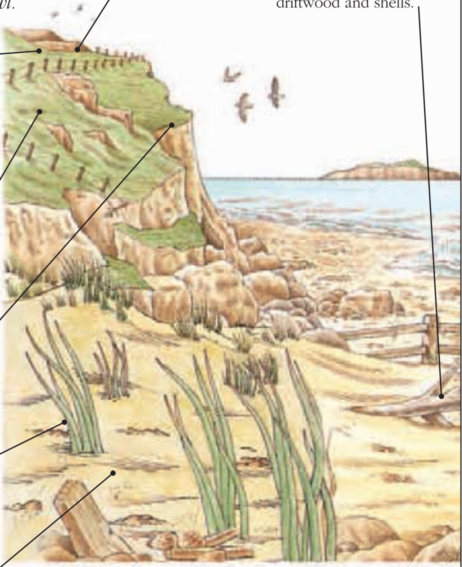


Cliff-tops of Land's End with safe ledges for nesting birds

Chesil Bank *is an unusual ridge of pebbles* (see p256) *stretching 18 miles (29 km) along the Dorset coast. The bank was created by storms and the pebbles increase in size from northwest to southeast due to varying strengths of coastal currents. The bank encloses a lagoon called the Fleet, habitat of the Abbotsbury swans, as well as a large number of wildfowl.*

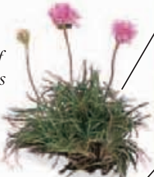


The Painted Lady, *often seen on cliff-top coastal plants, migrates to Britain in the spring.*

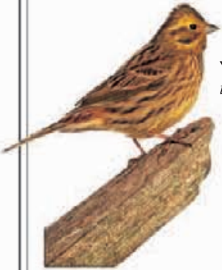


High tides wash up driftwood and shells.

Cliff-top turf contains many species of wild flowers.



Thrift, *in hummocks of honey-scented flowers, is a familiar sight on cliff ledges in spring.*



Yellowhammers *are to be seen perched on cliff-top bushes.*

Marram grass roots help hold back sand against wind erosion.

Grey seals *come on land to give birth to their young. They can be spotted on remote beaches.*

A BEACHCOMBER'S GUIDE

The best time to observe the natural life of the seashore is when the tide begins to roll back, before the scavenging seagulls pick up the stranded crabs, fish and sandhoppers, and the seaweed dries up. Much plant and marine life can be found in the secure habitat provided by rock pools.

Durdle Door *was formed by waves continually eroding the weaker chalk layers of this cliff* (see p270) *in Dorset, leaving the stronger oolite to create a striking arch, known in geology as an eyelet.*

COLLECTING SHELLS

Most of the edible molluscs, such as scallops and cockles, are known as bivalves; others, such as whelks and limpets, are known as gastropods.

Great scallop

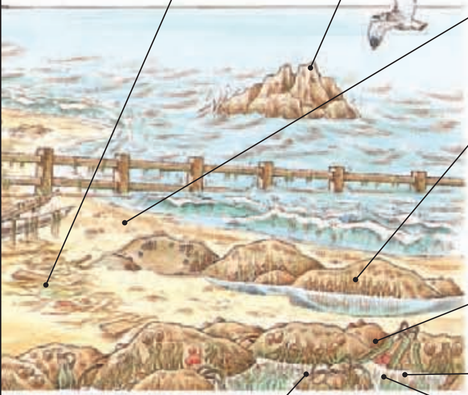
Common cockle

Common whelk

Common limpet

Oystercatchers *have a distinctive orange beak. They hunt along the shore, feeding on all kinds of shellfish.*

Seaweed, *such as bladder wrack, can resemble coral or lichen when in water.*



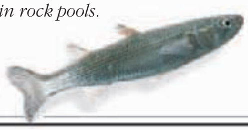
Rocks are colonized by clusters of barnacles, mussels and limpets.

Starfish *can be aggressive predators on shellfish. The light-sensitive tips of their tentacles help them to "see" the way.*

Mussels *are widespread and can be harvested for food.*

Rock pools teem with crabs, mussels, shrimps and plant life.

The Velvet Crab, *often found hiding in seaweed, is covered with fine downy hair all over its shell.*



Grey mullet, *when newly hatched, can often be seen in rock pools.*

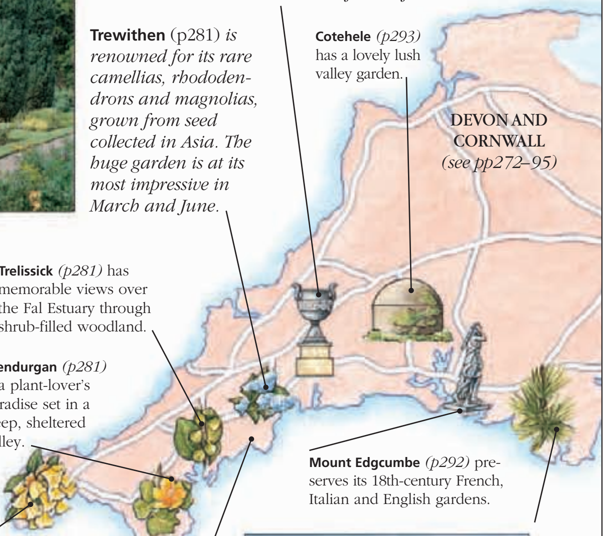
West Country Gardens

Gardeners have long been attracted to the West Country. Its mild climate is perfect for growing tender and exotic plants, many of which were brought from Asia in the 19th century. As a result, the region has some of England's finest and most varied gardens, covering the whole sweep of garden styles and history *(see pp26–7),* from the clipped formality of Elizabethan Montacute, to the colourful and crowded cottage-garden style of East Lambrook Manor.

Lanhydrock's (p284) *clipped yews and low box hedges frame a blaze of colourful annuals.*

Trewithen (p281) *is renowned for its rare camellias, rhododendrons and magnolias, grown from seed collected in Asia. The huge garden is at its most impressive in March and June.*

Cotehele *(p293)* has a lovely lush valley garden.



Trelissick *(p281)* has memorable views over the Fal Estuary through shrub-filled woodland.

Glendurgan *(p281)* is a plant-lover's paradise set in a steep, sheltered valley.

Mount Edgcumbe *(p292)* preserves its 18th-century French, Italian and English gardens.

Trengwainton (p276) *has a fine stream garden, whose banks are crowded with moisture-loving plants, beneath a lush canopy of New Zealand tree ferns.*

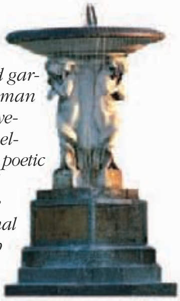
Lost Gardens of Heligan

Overbecks *(near Salcombe) enjoys a spectacular site overlooking the Salcombe Estuary. There are secret gardens, terraces and rocky dells.*

CREATIVE GARDENING

Gardens are not simply collections of plants; they rely for much of their appeal on man-made features. Whimsical topiary, ornate architecture, fanciful statuary and mazes help to create an atmosphere of adventure or pure escapism. The many gardens dotted around the West Country offer engaging examples of the vivid imagination of designers.

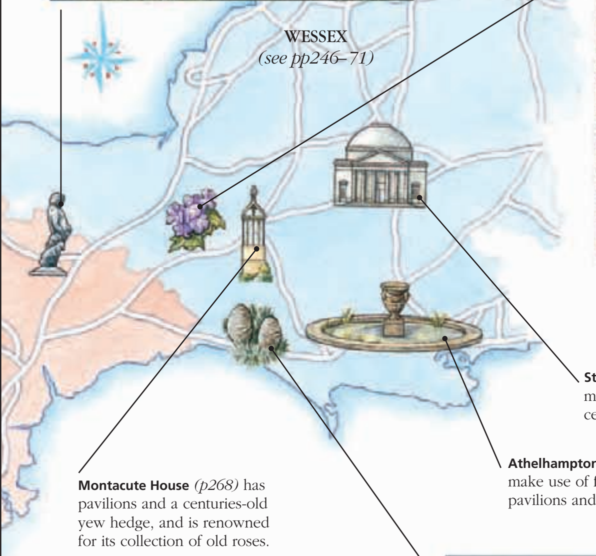
Mazes *were created in medieval monasteries to teach patience and persistence. This laurel maze at Glendurgan was planted in 1833.*



Fountains *and flamboyant statuary have adorned gardens since Roman times. Such eye-catching embellishments add poetic and Classical touches to the design of formal gardens, such as Mount Edgcumbe.*

Knightshayes Court (p289) *is designed as a series of formal garden "rooms", planted for scent, colour or seasonal effect.*

East Lambrook Manor *(near South Petherton) is a riot of colours, as old-fashioned cottage plants grow without restraint.*



Stourhead *(see pp266–7)* is a magnificent example of 18th-century landscape gardening.

Athelhampton's *(p269)* gardens make use of fountains, statues, pavilions and columnar yews.

Montacute House *(p268)* has pavilions and a centuries-old yew hedge, and is renowned for its collection of old roses.

0 kilometres 25

0 miles 25

Parnham *(near Beaminster), like many West Country gardens, has several parts devoted to different themes. Here conical yews complement the formality of the stone balustrade; elsewhere there are woodland, kitchen, shade and Mediterranean gardens.*

Many garden buildings *are linked by an element of fantasy; while country houses had to conform to everyday practicalities, the design of many smaller buildings gave more scope for imagination. This fanciful Elizabethan pavilion on the forecourt at Montacute House was first and foremost decorative, but sometimes served as a lodging house.*

Topiary *can be traced back to the Greeks. Since that time the sculpting of trees into unusual, often eccentric shapes has been developed over the centuries. The yew topiary of 1920s Knightshayes features a fox being chased by a pack of hounds. The figures form a delightful conceit and come into their own in winter when little else is in leaf.*

WESSEX

WILTSHIRE · SOMERSET · DORSET

The natural and diverse beauty of this predominantly rural region is characterized by rolling hills and charming villages. The area is enriched by a wealth of historical and architectural attractions, ranging from the prehistoric stone circle of Stonehenge to the Roman baths and magnificent Georgian townscape of Bath.

Vast swathes of bare windswept downland give way to lush river valleys, and the contrast between the two may explain the origin in medieval times of the saying, “as different as chalk and cheese”. The chalk and limestone hills provided pasture for sheep whose wool was exported to Europe or turned to cloth in mill towns such as Bradford-on-Avon. Meanwhile the rich cow-grazed pastures of the valleys produced the Cheddar cheese for which the region has become famous.

The area’s potential for wealth was first exploited by prehistoric chieftains whose large, mysterious monuments, such as Stonehenge and Maiden Castle, are striking features of the landscape. From this same soil sprang King Arthur *(see p285)* and King Alfred the Great, about whom there are numerous fascinating legends. It was King Arthur who is thought to have led British resistance to the Saxon invasion in the 6th century. The Saxons finally emerged the victors and one of them, King Alfred, first united the West Country into one political unit, called the Kingdom of Wessex *(see p47)*.

Wilton House and Lacock Abbey, both former monasteries, were turned into splendid stately homes during the 16th century, due to the Dissolution of the Monasteries *(see pp50–51)*. Today, their previous wealth can be gauged by the size and grandeur of their storage barns.

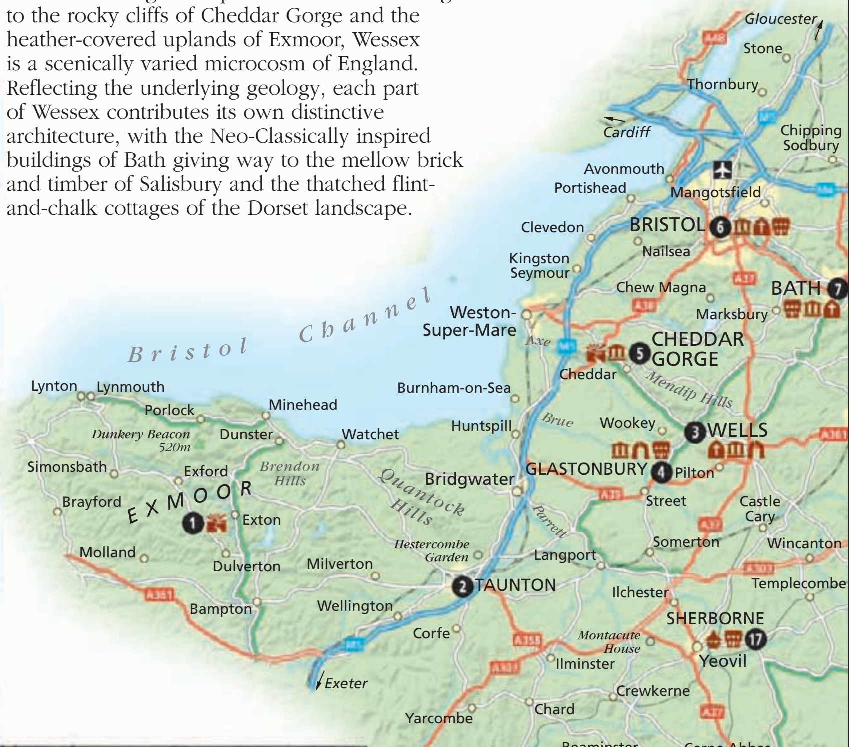
Matching the many man-made splendours of the region, Wessex is rich in rare wildlife and plants.

Two visitors enjoying the Elizabethan gardens of Montacute House, Somerset

◁ **Eighteenth-century cottages lining Gold Hill, Shaftesbury**

Exploring Wessex

From the rolling chalk plains around Stonehenge to the rocky cliffs of Cheddar Gorge and the heather-covered uplands of Exmoor, Wessex is a scenically varied microcosm of England. Reflecting the underlying geology, each part of Wessex contributes its own distinctive architecture, with the Neo-Classically inspired buildings of Bath giving way to the mellow brick and timber of Salisbury and the thatched flint-and-chalk cottages of the Dorset landscape.



Gloucester
Stone
Thornbury
Cardiff
Chipping Sodbury
Avonmouth
Portishead
Mangotsfield
Clevedon
BRISTOL 6
Nailsea
Kingston Seymour
Chew Magna
BATH 7
Marksbury
Weston-Super-Mare
Axe
CHEDDAR GORGE 5
Cheddar
Mendip Hills
Bristol Channel
Lynton
Lynmouth
Porlock
Minehead
Burnham-on-Sea
Dunkery Beacon 520m
Dunster
Watchet
Huntspill
Brue
Wookey
WELLS 3
Simonsbath
Exford
Brendon Hills
Quantock Hills
Bridgwater
GLASTONBURY 4
Pilton
Brayford
EXMOOR 1
Exton
Parrett
Street
Castle Cary
Molland
Dulverton
Milverton
Hestercombe Garden
Langport
Somerton
Wincanton
TAUNTON 2
Ilchester
Templecombe
Bampton
Wellington
SHERBORNE 17
Corfe
Montacute House
Yeovil
Ilminster
Exeter
Crewkerne
Chard
Yarcombe
Beaminster
Cerne Abbas
Frampton
Charmouth
Hardy's Cottage
Axe
Lyme Regis
Bridport
DORCHESTER 20
ABBOTSBURY 18
Lyme Bay
WEYMOUTH 19
Chesil Beach
Fortuneswell
Isle of Portland
A48
M5
M4
A37
A38
A361
A39
A303
A358
A35
A30

Bath's abbey and Georgian townscape

KEY

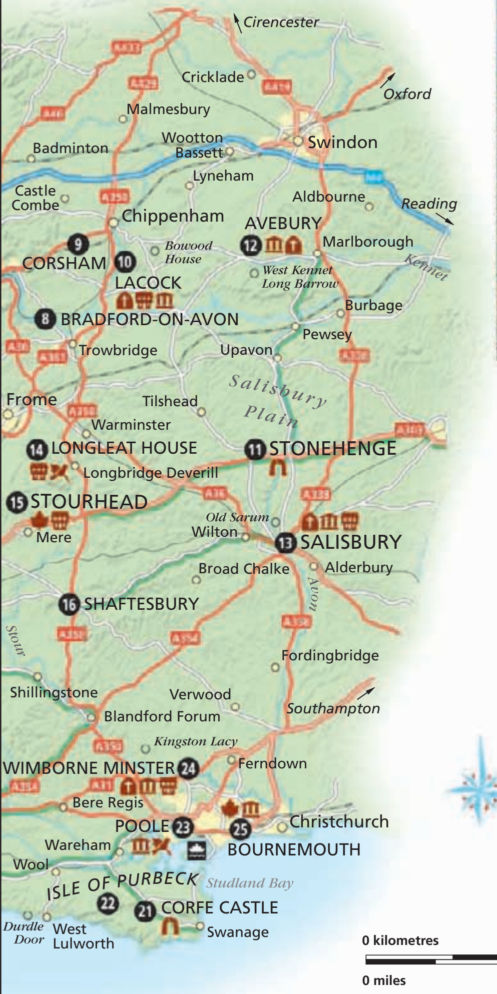
- Motorway
- Major road
- Secondary road
- Minor road
- Scenic route
- Main railway
- Minor railway
- ▲ Summit

For additional map symbols *see back flap*

Exmoor National Park

SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp570–74
- ***Where to Eat*** pp622–6


Cirencester
Cricklade
Oxford
Malmesbury
Badminton
Wootton Bassett
Swindon
Lyneham
Castle Combe
Aldbourne
Reading
Chippenham
AVEBURY ⑫
Marlborough
⑨ CORSHAM ⑩
Bowood House
Kennet
LACOCK
West Kennet Long Barrow
Burbage
⑧ BRADFORD-ON-AVON
Pewsey
Trowbridge
Upavon
Salisbury Plain
Frome
Tilshead
Warminster
⑭ LONGLEAT HOUSE
⑪ STONEHENGE
Longbridge Deverill
⑮ STOURHEAD
Old Sarum
Wilton
Mere
⑬ SALISBURY
Broad Chalke
Alderbury
Avon
⑯ SHAFTESBURY
Stour
Fordingbridge
Shillingstone
Verwood
Southampton
Blandford Forum
Kingston Lacy
WIMBORNE MINSTER ㉔
Ferndown
Bere Regis
POOLE ㉓
㉕ BOURNEMOUTH
Christchurch
Wareham
Wool
ISLE OF PURBECK
Studland Bay
㉒
㉑ CORFE CASTLE
Durdle Door
West Lulworth
Swanage
0 kilometres 20
0 miles 10

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Abbotsbury	⑱
Avebury	⑫
Bath pp258–9	❼
Bournemouth	㉕
Bradford-on-Avon	❽
Bristol pp256–7	❻
Cheddar Gorge p254	❺
Corfe Castle	㉑
Corsham	❾
Dorchester	⑳
Exmoor pp250–51	❶
Glastonbury	❹
Isle of Purbeck	㉒
Lacock	⑩
Longleat House	⑭
Poole	㉓
Salisbury pp264–5	⑬
Shaftesbury	⑯
Sherborne	⑰
Stonehenge pp262–3	⑪
Stourhead pp266–7	⑮
Taunton	❷
Wells pp252–3	❸
Weymouth	⑲
Wimborne Minster	㉔

GETTING AROUND

Bath and Bristol are served by fast mainline trains, other major towns and seaside resorts by regional railways and long-distance bus services. Popular sights such as Stonehenge feature on many tour operators' bus excursions. The rural heart of Wessex, however, has little in the way of public transport and unless you have the time to walk the region's footpaths, you will need a car.

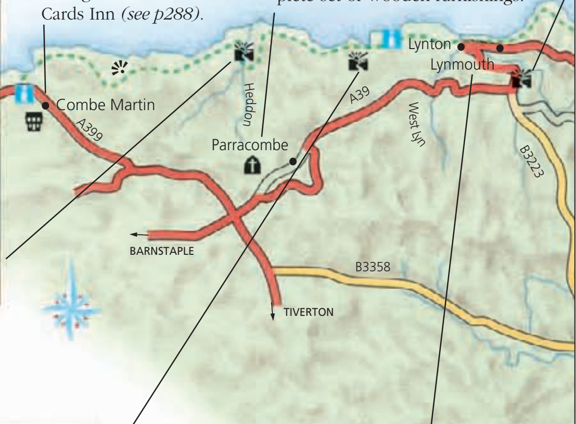
Huge sarsen stones of Stonehenge, dating from around 3000 BC

Exmoor National Park ①

Curlew

The majestic cliffs plunging into the Bristol Channel along Exmoor's northern coast are interrupted by lush, wooded valleys carrying rivers from the high moorland down to sheltered fishing coves. Inland, wild rolling hills are grazed by sturdy Exmoor ponies, horned sheep and the local wild red deer. Buzzards are also a common sight wheeling over the bracken-clad terrain looking for prey. For walkers, Exmoor offers 1,000 km (620 miles) of wonderful public paths and varied, dramatic scenery, while the tamer perimeters of the National Park offer less energetic attractions – everything from traditional seaside entertainments to picturesque villages and ancient churches.

View east along the South West Coast Path



Combe Martin is a pretty setting for the Pack of Cards Inn *(see p288)*.

Parracombe Old Church has a Georgian interior with a complete set of wooden furnishings.

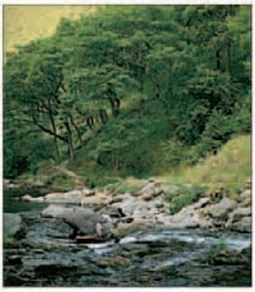
Heddon's Mouth
The River Heddon passes through woodland and meadows down to this attractive point on the coast.

The Valley of Rocks
Sandstone outcrops, eroded into fantastical shapes, characterize this natural gorge.

KEY

🛈	Tourist information
🟥	A road
🟨	B road
═	Minor road
- -	Coast path
✻	Viewpoint

Lynmouth
Above the charming fishing village of Lynmouth stands hill-top Lynton. The two villages are connected by a cliff railway (see p288).



Watersmeet
The East Lyn and Hoar Oak Water join together in a tumbling cascade at this spot in the middle of a beautifully wooded valley. There is also a tearoom with a pretty garden.

Culbone church, a mere 10.6 m (35 ft) in length, claims to be Britain's smallest parish church.

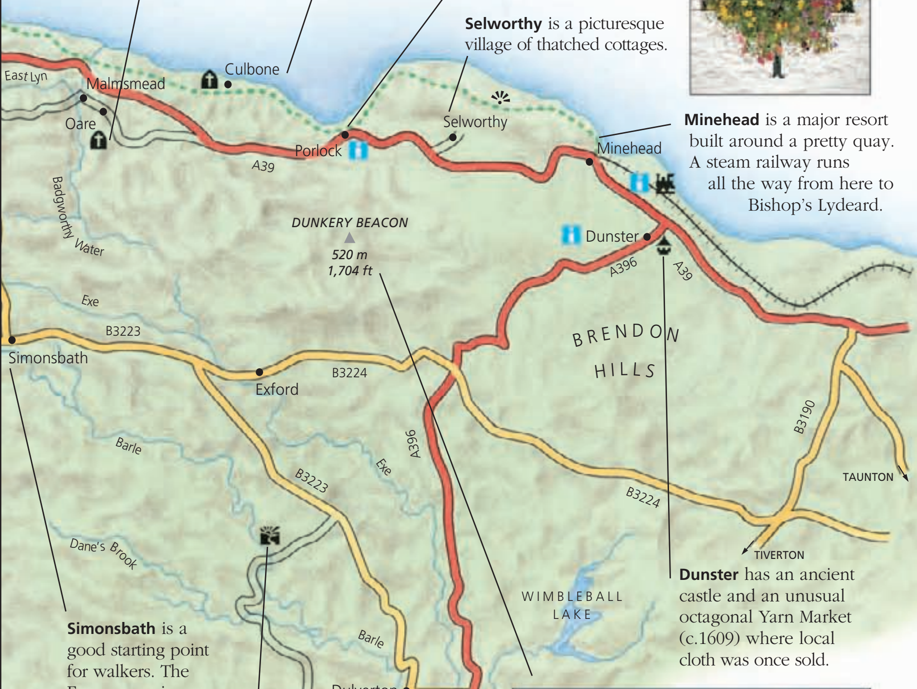
VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Somerset/Devon.
🚆 🚌 *Tiverton then bus.*
ℹ *Lee Rd, Lynton (01598 752225).*
Dunster Castle (NT), *Dunster.*
Tel *01643 821314.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Sat–Wed.*
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
National Park Centre Dulveton ○ *all year*
Tel *01398 323841.* **www**.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Oare's church commemorates the writer R D Blackmore, whose romantic novel *Lorna Doone* (1869) is set in the area.

Porlock
The flower-filled village of Porlock has retained its charm, with winding streets, thatched houses and a fascinating old church.

Selworthy is a picturesque village of thatched cottages.


East Lyn
Malmsmead
Culbone
Oare
Porlock
A39
Selworthy
Minehead
Badgworthy Water
DUNKERY BEACON
520 m
1,704 ft
Dunster
A396
A39
Exe
B3223
Simonsbath
BRENDON
HILLS
Exford
B3224
Barle
Exe
A396
B3223
B3190
TAUNTON
B3224
TIVERTON
Dane's Brook
WIMBLEBALL
LAKE
Barle
Dulverton
B3222
TIVERTON

Minehead is a major resort built around a pretty quay. A steam railway runs all the way from here to Bishop's Lydeard.

Dunster has an ancient castle and an unusual octagonal Yarn Market (c.1609) where local cloth was once sold.

Simonsbath is a good starting point for walkers. The Exmoor ponies found locally are thought to descend from prehistoric ancestors.

Dunkery Beacon
Rising to a height of 520 m (1,700 ft), this is the highest point on Exmoor.

Tarr Steps is an ancient "clapper" bridge built of stone slabs.

0 kilometres 5

0 miles 3

Taunton ❷

Somerset. 👥 *77,000.* 🚉 🚌 ℹ *Paul St (01823 336 344).* 🛒 *Thu (farmers'), Tue & Sat (livestock).* **www**.visitsomerset.co.uk

Taunton lies at the heart of a fertile region famous for its apples and cider, but it was the prosperous wool industry that financed the massive church of **St Mary Magdalene** (1488–1514) with its glorious tower. Taunton's **castle** was the setting for the notorious Bloody Assizes of 1685 when "Hanging" Judge Jeffreys dispensed harsh retribution on the Duke of Monmouth and his followers for an uprising against King James II. The 12th-century building now houses the **Museum of Somerset**. A star exhibit is the Roman mosaic from a villa at Low Ham, Somerset, showing the story of Dido and Aeneas.

Environs: Hestercombe Garden is one of Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll's great masterpieces.

🏛 Museum of Somerset
Castle Green. ***Tel*** *01823 320201.* ● *until spring 2011 – call for details.* ♿ *ground floor.* 🛍

🍁 Hestercombe Garden
Cheddon Fitzpaine. ***Tel*** *01823 413923.* ○ *daily.* 🎧 ☕ 🛍
♿ **www**.hestercombegardens.com

SOMERSET CIDER

Scrumpy cider

Somerset is one of the few English counties where real farmhouse cider, known as "scrumpy", is still made using the traditional methods. Cider once formed part of the farm labourer's wages and local folklore has it that various unsavoury additives, such as iron nails, were added to give strength. Cider-making can be seen at **Sheppy's** farm, on the A38 near Taunton.

Wells ❸

Somerset. 👥 *10,000.* 🚌 ℹ *Market Place (01749 672552).* 🛒 *Wed (farmers'), Sat.* **www**.wellstourism.com

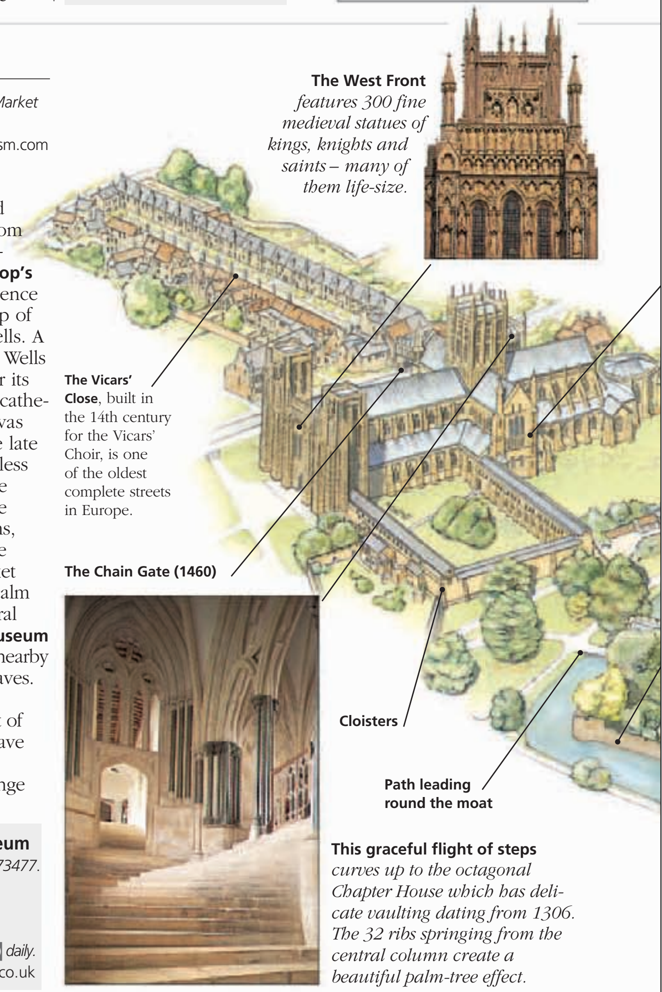
Cathedral clock (1386–92)

Wells is named after St Andrew's Well, the sacred spring that bubbles up from the ground near the 13th-century **Bishop's Palace**, residence of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. A tranquil city, Wells is famous for its magnificent cathedral which was begun in the late 1100s. Penniless Porch, where beggars once received alms, leads from the bustling market place to the calm of the cathedral close. **Wells & Mendip Museum** has prehistoric finds from nearby Wookey Hole and other caves.

Environs: To the northeast of Wells lies the impressive cave complex of **Wookey Hole**, which has an extensive range of popular amusements.

🏛 Wells & Mendip Museum
8 Cathedral Green. ***Tel*** *01749 673477.* ○ *daily* 🎧 ♿ *limited.* 🛍
www.wellsmuseum.org.uk

∩ Wookey Hole
Off A371. ***Tel*** *01749 672243.* ○ *daily.* 🎧 ✋ 🍴 🛍 **www**.wookey.co.uk



The West Front *features 300 fine medieval statues of kings, knights and saints – many of them life-size.*

The Vicars' Close, built in the 14th century for the Vicars' Choir, is one of the oldest complete streets in Europe.

The Chain Gate (1460)

Cloisters

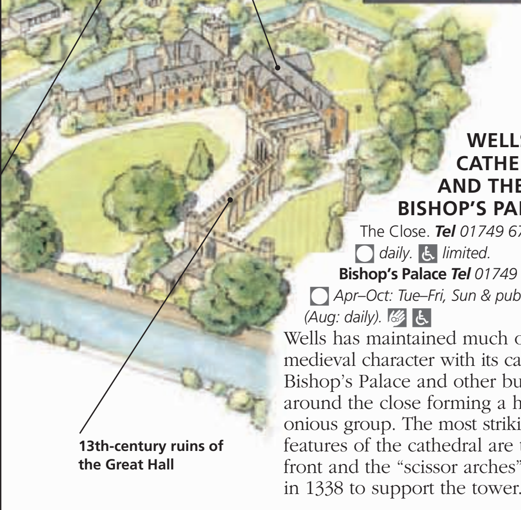
Path leading round the moat

This graceful flight of steps *curves up to the octagonal Chapter House which has delicate vaulting dating from 1306. The 32 ribs springing from the central column create a beautiful palm-tree effect.*

Glastonbury Abbey, left in ruins in 1539 after the Dissolution

Bishops' tombs *circle the chancel. This sumptuous marble tomb, in the south aisle, is that of Bishop Lord Arthur Hervey, who was Bishop of Bath and Wells (1869–94).*

The palace moat *is home to swans which ring a bell by the gatehouse when they want to be fed. Feeding times are at 11am and 4pm.*



The Bishop's Palace (1230–40)
13th-century ruins of the Great Hall

WELLS CATHEDRAL AND THE BISHOP'S PALACE

The Close. ***Tel*** *01749 674483.*
○ *daily.* ♿ *limited.*
Bishop's Palace *Tel* *01749 678691.*
○ *Apr–Oct: Tue–Fri, Sun & public hols (Aug: daily).* ◩ ♿

Wells has maintained much of its medieval character with its cathedral, Bishop's Palace and other buildings around the close forming a harmonious group. The most striking features of the cathedral are the west front and the "scissor arches" installed in 1338 to support the tower.

Glastonbury ❹

Somerset. 👥 *9,000.* 🚌 ℹ *Tribunal, High St (01458 832954).* 🛒 *Tue.*
www.glastonburytic.co.uk

Shrouded in Arthurian myth and rich in mystical association, the town of Glastonbury was once one of the most important destinations for pilgrims in England. Now thousands flock here for the annual rock festival *(see p63)* and for the summer solstice on Midsummer's Day (21 June).

Over the years history and legend have become intertwined, and the monks who founded **Glastonbury Abbey**, around 700, found it profitable to encourage the association between Glastonbury and the mythical "Blessed Isle" known as Avalon – alleged to be the last resting place of King Arthur and the Holy Grail *(see p285).*

The great abbey was left in ruins after the Dissolution of the Monasteries *(see p50).* Even so, some magnificent relics survive, including parts of the vast Norman abbey church, the unusual Abbot's Kitchen, with its octagonal roof, and the Victorian farmhouse, now the **Somerset Rural Life Museum**.

Growing in the abbey grounds is a cutting from the famous Glastonbury thorn which is said to have miraculously grown from the staff of St Joseph of Arimathea. According to myth, he was sent around AD 60 to convert England to Christianity. The English hawthorn flowers at Christmas as well as in May.

The **Lake Village Museum** has some interesting finds from the Iron Age settlements that once fringed the marshlands around **Glastonbury Tor**. Seen for miles around, the Tor is a hill crowned by the remains of a 14th-century church.

🏛 Somerset Rural Life Museum

Chilkwell St. ***Tel*** *01458 831197.*
○ *10am–5pm Tue–Sat.* ● *1 Jan, Good Fri, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ *limited.*
☕ *closed winter.* 🛍

🏛 Lake Village Museum

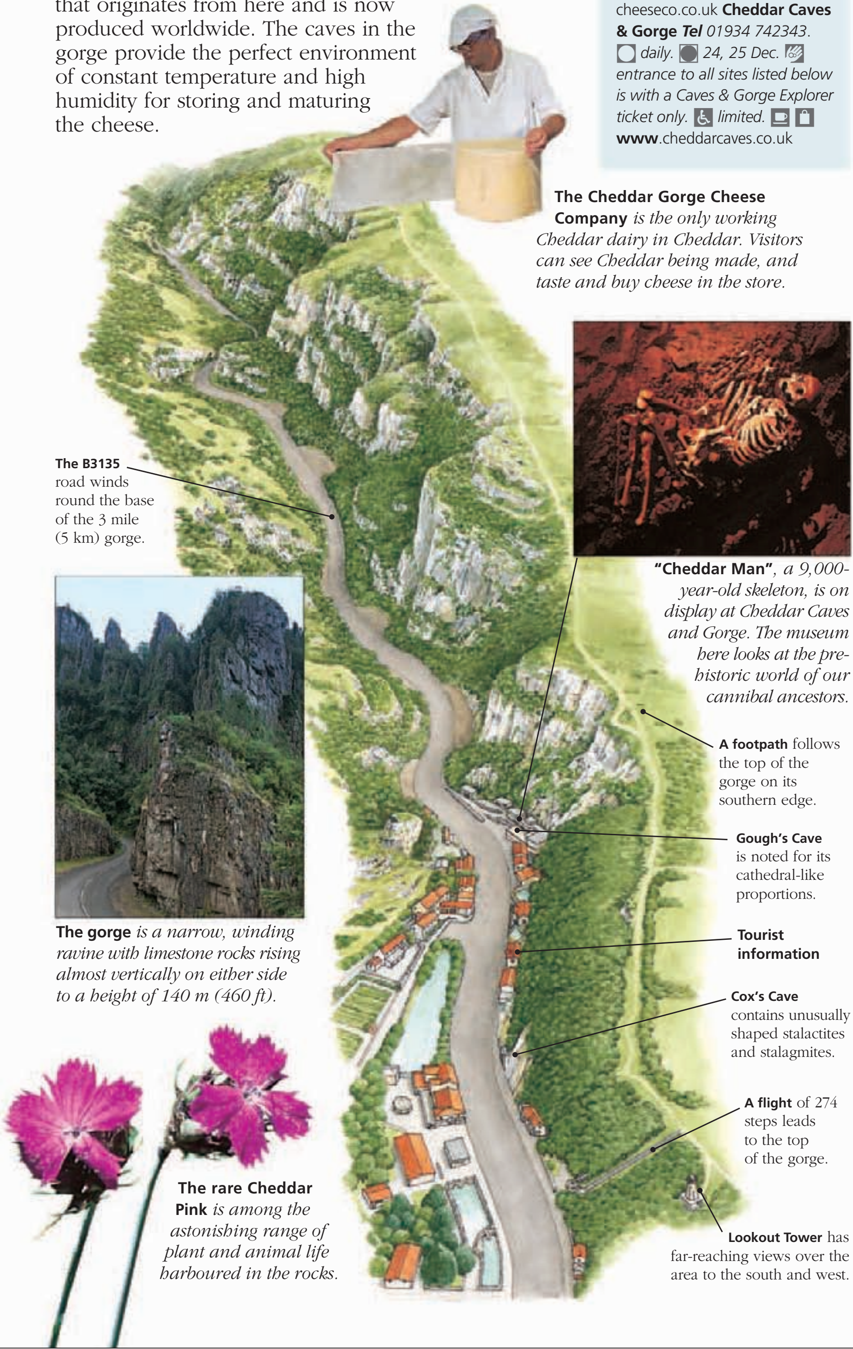
Tribunal, High St. ***Tel*** *01458 832954.*
○ *daily.* ● *25, 26 Dec.* ◩ 🛍

Cheddar Gorge ❺

Described as a "deep frightful chasm" by novelist Daniel Defoe in 1724, Cheddar Gorge is a spectacular ravine cut through the Mendip plateau by fast-flowing streams during the interglacial phases of the last Ice Age. Cheddar has given its name to a rich cheese that originates from here and is now produced worldwide. The caves in the gorge provide the perfect environment of constant temperature and high humidity for storing and maturing the cheese.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

On B3135, Somerset. ℹ *01934 744071.* 🚌 *from Wells and Weston-super-Mare.* ✋ 🍴 ☕ **Cheddar Gorge Cheese Co. Tel** *01934 742810.* ○ *daily.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.cheddargorgecheeseco.co.uk **Cheddar Caves & Gorge Tel** *01934 742343.* ○ *daily.* ● *24, 25 Dec.* ✋ *entrance to all sites listed below is with a Caves & Gorge Explorer ticket only.* ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.cheddarcaves.co.uk



The Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company *is the only working Cheddar dairy in Cheddar. Visitors can see Cheddar being made, and taste and buy cheese in the store.*

The B3135 road winds round the base of the 3 mile (5 km) gorge.

"Cheddar Man", *a 9,000-year-old skeleton, is on display at Cheddar Caves and Gorge. The museum here looks at the prehistoric world of our cannibal ancestors.*

A footpath follows the top of the gorge on its southern edge.

Gough's Cave is noted for its cathedral-like proportions.

The gorge *is a narrow, winding ravine with limestone rocks rising almost vertically on either side to a height of 140 m (460 ft).*

Tourist information

Cox's Cave contains unusually shaped stalactites and stalagmites.

A flight of 274 steps leads to the top of the gorge.

The rare Cheddar Pink *is among the astonishing range of plant and animal life harboured in the rocks.*

Lookout Tower has far-reaching views over the area to the south and west.

Bristol ❻

See pp256–7.

Bath ❼

See pp258–61.

Bradford-on-Avon ❽

Wiltshire. 👥 *9,500.* 🚉 ℹ *St Margaret St (01225 865797).* 🛒 *Thu.*
www.bradfordonavon.co.uk

This lovely Cotswold-stone town is full of flamboyant houses built by wealthy wool and cloth merchants in the 17th and 18th centuries. One fine Georgian example is **Abbey House**, on Church Street. Further along, **St Laurence Church** is a remarkably complete Saxon building founded in 705 *(see p47)*. Converted to a school and cottage in the 12th century, it was rediscovered in the 19th century when a vicar recognized the characteristic cross-shaped roof.

Typical Cotswold-stone architecture in Bradford-on-Avon

At one end of the medieval **Town Bridge** is a small stone cell, built as a chapel in the 13th century but later used as a lock-up for 17th-century vagrants. A short walk away, near converted mill buildings and a stretch of the Kennet and Avon Canal, is the 14th-century **Tithe Barn** *(see p32)*. There are several teashops in the town and canoe trips down the canal are popular.

🏠 **Tithe Barn**
(EH) Pound Lane. ○ *daily.*
● *25, 26 Dec.* ♿

Corsham ❾

Wiltshire. 👥 *12,000.*
ℹ *31 High St (01249 714660).*
www.corshamheritage.org.uk

The streets of Corsham are lined with stately Georgian houses in Cotswold stone. **St Bartholomew's Church** has an elegant spire and a lovely carved alabaster tomb (1960) to the late Lady Methuen, whose family founded Methuen publishers. The family acquired **Corsham Court** in 1745 with its picture gallery and a remarkable collection of Flemish, Italian and English paintings, including works by Van Dyck, Lippi and Reynolds. Peacocks wander through the grounds, adding their colour and elegance to the façade of the Elizabethan mansion.

Peacock in grounds, Corsham Court

🏠 **Corsham Court**
off A4. ***Tel*** *01249 712214.* ○ *mid-Mar–Sep: Tue–Thu, Sat, Sun; Oct–mid-Mar: Sat, Sun (pm).* ● *Dec.* 📷 ♿

Lacock ❿

Wiltshire. 👥 *1,000.*

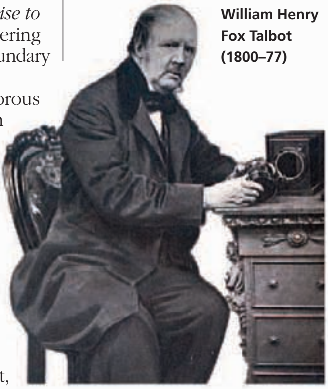
Maintained in its pristine state by the National Trust, the picturesque village of Lacock has provided the backdrop to numerous BBC costume dramas, including *Larkrise to Candleford*. The meandering River Avon forms the boundary to the north side of the churchyard, while humorous stone figures look down from **St Cyriac Church**. Inside the 15th-century church is the splendid Renaissance-style tomb of Sir William Sharington (1495–1553). He acquired **Lacock Abbey** after the Dissolution of the Monasteries *(see p50)*, but it was a later owner, John Ivory Talbot, who had the buildings remodelled in the Gothic revival style, in vogue in the early 18th century. The abbey is famous for the window (in the south gallery) from which his descendant William Henry Fox Talbot, an early pioneer of photography, took his first picture in 1835. A 16th-century barn at the abbey gates has been converted to the **Fox Talbot Museum**, which has displays on his experiments.

Environs: Designed by Robert Adam *(see pp32–3)* in 1769, **Bowood House** includes the laboratory where Joseph Priestley discovered oxygen in 1774, and a rich collection of sculpture, costumes and paintings. Italianate gardens surround the house while the lake-filled grounds, landscaped by "Capability" Brown *(see p30)*, contain a Doric temple, grotto, cascade and an adventure playground.

⛪ **Lacock Abbey**
(NT) Lacock. ***Tel*** *01249 730459.*
○ *Mar–Oct: Wed–Mon (pm).* ●
Good Fri. 📷 ♿ *limited in house.*
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

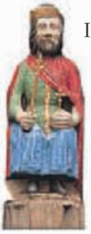
🏛 **Fox Talbot Museum**
(NT) Lacock. ***Tel*** *01249 730459.*
○ *daily (Nov–Feb: Sat & Sun only).*
● *Good Fri.* 📷 ♿

🏠 **Bowood House**
Derry Hill, nr Calne. ***Tel*** *01249 812102.*
○ *Apr–Oct: daily.* 📷 ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍



William Henry Fox Talbot (1800–77)

Bristol ❻



King Brennus, St John's Gate

It was in 1497 that John Cabot sailed from Bristol on his historic voyage to North America. The city, at the mouth of the Avon, became the main British port for transatlantic trade, pioneering the era of the ocean-going steam liner with the construction of Brunel's ss *Great Britain*. The city flourished as a major trading centre, growing rich on the distribution of wine, tobacco and, in the 17th century, slaves.

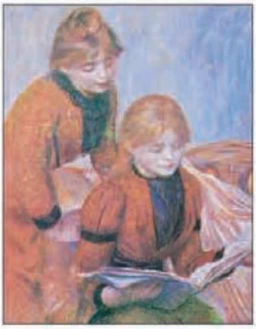
Because of its docks and aero-engine factories, Bristol was heavily bombed during World War II. In 2008, a multimillion-pound development programme was completed with the opening of Cabot Circus, a vast shopping centre. The old dock area has been brought back to life with bars, cafés, restaurants and art galleries lining the waterside.

Exploring Bristol

The oldest part of the city lies around Broad, King and Corn streets, known as the Old Quarter. The lively St Nicholas covered market, part of which occupies the **Corn Exchange**, was built by John Wood the Elder *(see p258)* in 1743. Outside are the famous Bristol Nails, four bronze 16th–17th-century pedestals which Bristol merchants used as tables when paying for goods – hence the expression "to pay on the nail". **St John's Gate**, at the head of Broad Street, has medieval statues of Bristol's two mythical founders, King Brennus and King Benilus. Between Lewins Mead and Colston Street, **Christmas Steps** is a steep lane lined with specialist shops and cafés. The **Chapel of the Three Kings** at the top was founded in 1504.

A group of buildings around the cobbled King Street include the 17th-century timber-framed **Llandoger Trow** inn. It is here that Daniel Defoe is said to have met Alexander Selkirk, whose true-life island exile served as the inspiration for Defoe's novel *Robinson Crusoe* (1719). Just up from here is the **Theatre Royal**, built in 1766, and home to the famous Bristol Old Vic.

Bow of Brunel's ss *Great Britain*



The Two Sisters (c.1889) by Renoir, City Museum and Art Gallery

Not far away, the renowned gallery the **Arnolfini**, on Narrow Quay, is a showcase for contemporary art, drama, dance and cinema.

On the Harbourside, **At-Bristol** (www.at-bristol.org.uk) combines an exciting, interactive science centre with an aquarium.

Not far from the Harbourside, elegant **Clifton** revels in ornate Regency crescents. The impressive **Clifton Suspension Bridge** by Brunel, completed in 1864, perfectly complements the drama of the steep Avon gorge. **Bristol Zoo Gardens** houses over 400 exotic and endangered species set in stunning gardens.

Memorial to William Canynge the Younger (1400–74)

St Mary Redcliffe

Redcliffe Way. ***Tel*** *0117 9291487.*
○ *daily.* ♿ *by arrangement.*
www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk

This magnificent 14th-century church was claimed by Queen Elizabeth I to be "the fairest in England". The church owes much to the generosity of William Canynge the Elder and Younger, both famous mayors of Bristol. Inscriptions on the tombs of merchants and sailors tell of lives devoted to trade in Asia and the West Indies. Look out for the Bristol maze in the north aisle.

Brunel's ss *Great Britain*

Gas Ferry Rd. ☎ *0117 9260680.*
○ *daily.* ● *24, 25 Dec.* *ticket valid for one year.* ♿ *by appt.*
www.ssgreatbritain.org

Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, this is the world's first large iron passenger ship. Launched in 1843, she travelled 32 times round the world before being abandoned in the Falkland Islands in 1886. The ship has been fully restored.

Georgian House

7 Great George St. ***Tel*** *0117 9211362.*
○ *Sat–Wed.* **www**.bristol-city.gov.uk/museums

Life in a wealthy Bristol merchant's house of the 1790s is illustrated by furnishings in the elegant drawing room and the servants' area.

M-Shed

Princes Wharf, Harbourside.
○ *consult the website for more information.* **www**.bristol-city.gov.uk/museums

After a massive rebuild, the old Industrial Museum will reopen in 2011 as the M-Shed. The focus will be on the individual lives, stories and memories of the city's residents while retaining the best of the original building's industrial heritage. This project is part of the regeneration of Bristol's Harbourside.

Warehouses overlooking the Floating Harbour

🏛 Bristol Blue Glass Factory and Shop

Brislington. ***Tel*** *0117 972 0818.* ○ *daily.* **www**.bristol-glass.co.uk

The Bristol Blue Glass name is over 350 years old and represents the best tools, techniques and traditions from the past. Every piece of glass is free blown and hand-made, making each one unique and collectable. Glass blowing demonstrations take place at the visitor centre, where there is also a gallery shop.

🏛 Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

Queen's Rd. ***Tel*** *0117 922 3571.* ○ *daily.* ● *24, 25 Dec.* ♿ *limited.* 🛍 ☕ **www**.bristol-city.gov.uk/museums

Varied collections include Egyptology, dinosaur fossils, Roman tableware, Chinese glass and a fine collection of European paintings with works by Renoir and Bellini. Bristol artists include Sir Thomas Lawrence, Francis Danby and the notorious graffiti artist, Banksy.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Bristol. 👥 *430,000.* ✈ *7 miles (11 km) SW Bristol.* 🚆 *Temple Meads.* 🚌 *Marlborough St.* ℹ *Harbourside (0333 321 0101).* 🛒 *daily.* 🎭 *Harbour Festival: Jul–Aug; Balloon Fiesta: Aug.* **www**.visitbristol.co.uk

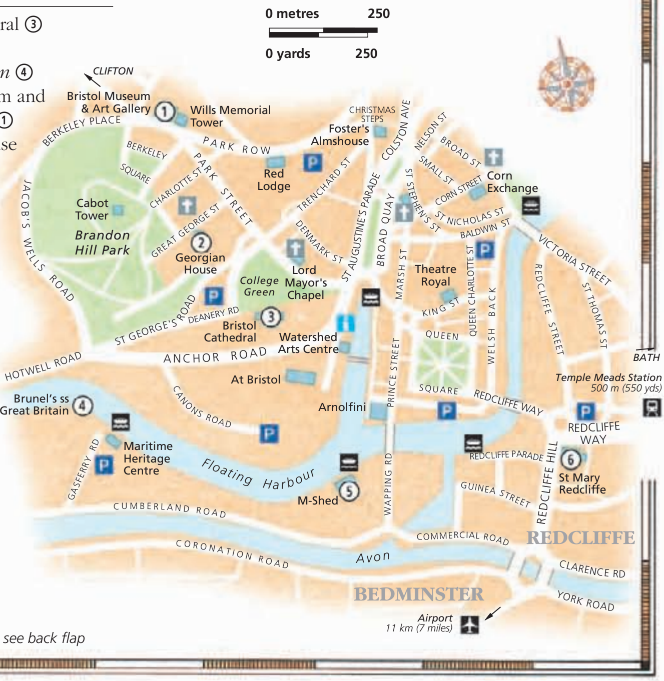
✝ Bristol Cathedral

College Green. ***Tel*** *0117 9264879.* ○ *daily.* **Donation.** ♿ *limited.* **www**.bristol-cathedral.co.uk

Bristol's cathedral, begun in 1140, took an unusually long time to build. Rapid progress was made between 1298 and 1330, when the inventive choir was rebuilt; the transepts and tower were finished in 1515, and another 350 years passed before the Victorian architect, G E Street, built the nave. Humorous medieval carving abounds – a snail crawling across the stone foliage in the Berkeley Chapel, musical monkeys in the Elder Lady Chapel, and a fine set of wooden misericords in the choir.

BRISTOL CITY CENTRE

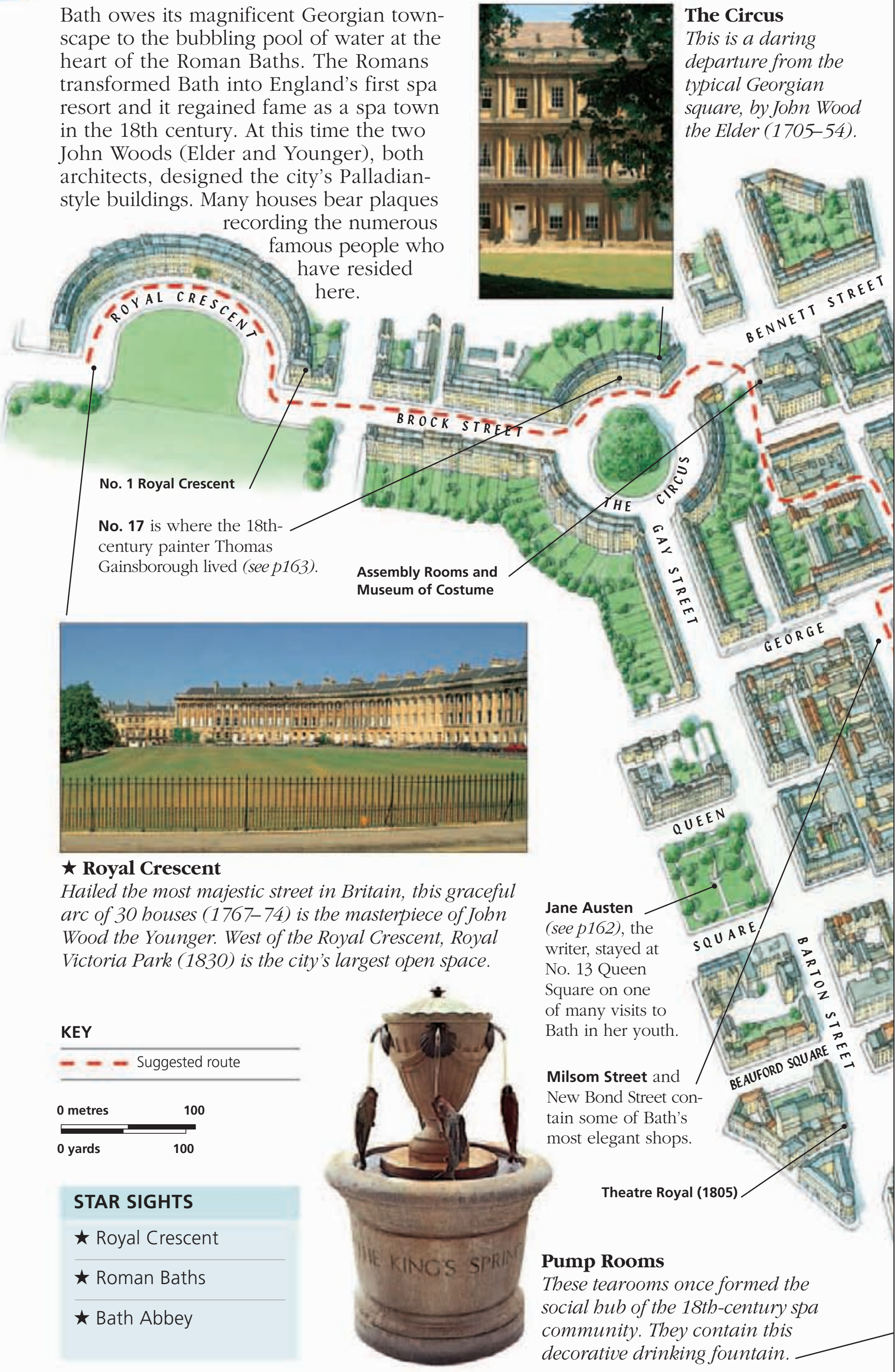
- Bristol Cathedral ③
- Brunel's ss *Great Britain* ④
- Bristol Museum and Art Gallery ①
- Georgian House ②
- M-Shed ⑤
- St Mary Redcliffe ⑥


0 metres 250
0 yards 250
CLIFTON
Bristol Museum & Art Gallery ①
Wills Memorial Tower
BERKELEY PLACE
BERKELEY SQUARE
PARK ROW
CHRISTMAS STEPS
Foster's Almshouse
COLSTON AVE
NELSON ST
BROAD ST
SMALL ST
Corn Exchange
CORN STREET
Red Lodge
CHARLOTTE ST
PARK STREET
TRENCHARD ST
ST AUGUSTINE'S PARADE
BROAD QUAY
ST STEPHEN'S ST
ST NICHOLAS ST
BALDWIN ST
VICTORIA STREET
JACOB'S WELLS ROAD
Cabot Tower
Brandon Hill Park
GREAT GEORGE ST
Georgian House ②
DENMARK ST
Lord Mayor's Chapel
College Green
MARSH ST
Theatre Royal
KING ST
QUEEN CHARLOTTE ST
BACK
WELSH
REDCLIFFE STREET
ST THOMAS ST
ST GEORGE'S ROAD
DEANERY RD
Bristol Cathedral ③
Watershed Arts Centre
QUEEN SQUARE
ANCHOR ROAD
HOTWELL ROAD
At Bristol
PRINCE STREET
REDCLIFFE WAY
BATH
Temple Meads Station 500 m (550 yds)
Brunel's ss Great Britain ④
CANONS ROAD
Arnolfini
REDCLIFFE WAY
Maritime Heritage Centre
GASFERRY RD
Floating Harbour
REDCLIFFE PARADE
REDCLIFFE HILL
St Mary Redcliffe ⑥
M-Shed ⑤
WAPPING RD
GUINEA STREET
CUMBERLAND ROAD
COMMERCIAL ROAD
REDCLIFFE
CORONATION ROAD
Avon
CLARENCE RD
YORK ROAD
BEDMINSTER
Airport 11 km (7 miles)

Key to Symbols *see back flap*

Street-by-Street: Bath ❼

Bath owes its magnificent Georgian townscape to the bubbling pool of water at the heart of the Roman Baths. The Romans transformed Bath into England's first spa resort and it regained fame as a spa town in the 18th century. At this time the two John Woods (Elder and Younger), both architects, designed the city's Palladian-style buildings. Many houses bear plaques recording the numerous famous people who have resided here.



The Circus
This is a daring departure from the typical Georgian square, by John Wood the Elder (1705–54).

No. 1 Royal Crescent

No. 17 is where the 18th-century painter Thomas Gainsborough lived *(see p163).*

Assembly Rooms and Museum of Costume

★ Royal Crescent
Hailed the most majestic street in Britain, this graceful arc of 30 houses (1767–74) is the masterpiece of John Wood the Younger. West of the Royal Crescent, Royal Victoria Park (1830) is the city's largest open space.

Jane Austen *(see p162)*, the writer, stayed at No. 13 Queen Square on one of many visits to Bath in her youth.

Milsom Street and New Bond Street contain some of Bath's most elegant shops.

Theatre Royal (1805)

KEY

– – – Suggested route

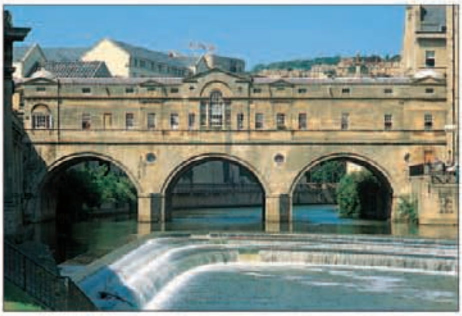
0 metres 100

0 yards 100

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Royal Crescent
- ★ Roman Baths
- ★ Bath Abbey

Pump Rooms
These tearooms once formed the social hub of the 18th-century spa community. They contain this decorative drinking fountain.



Pulteney Bridge

This charming bridge (1769–74), designed by Robert Adam, is lined with shops and links the centre with the magnificent Great Pulteney Street. Look out for a rare Victorian pillar box on the east bank.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Bath. 👥 *85,000.* ✈ *Bristol International Airport, 20 miles (32 km) W Bath.* 🚉 🚌 *Dorchester St.* ℹ *Abbey Chambers, Abbey Church Yard (0906 7112000) 50p per min.* ○ *daily.* 🎭 *International Festival: May–Jun.*

★ Roman Baths

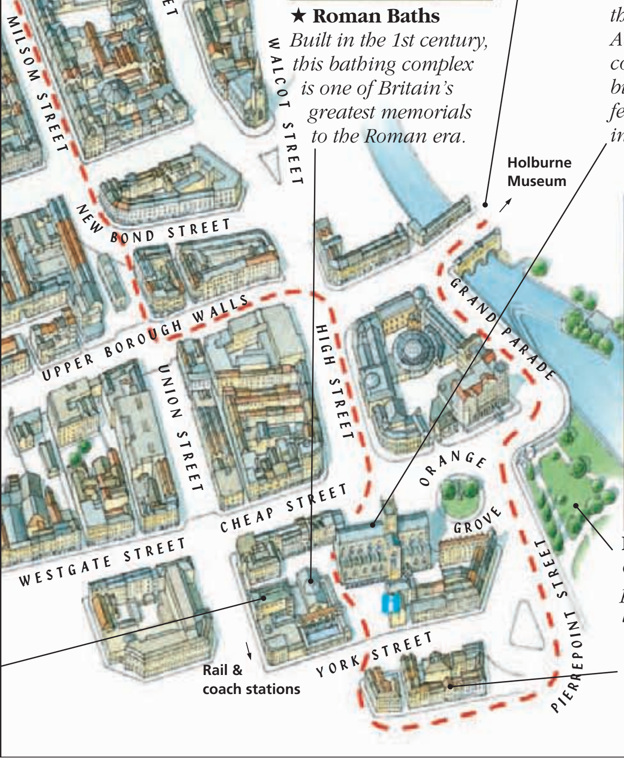
Built in the 1st century, this bathing complex is one of Britain's greatest memorials to the Roman era.

★ Bath Abbey

The splendid abbey stands at the heart of the old city in the Abbey Church Yard, a paved courtyard enlivened by buskers. Its unique façade features stone angels climbing Jacob's Ladder to heaven.

Parade Gardens

Courting couples came to this pretty riverside park for secret liaisons in the 18th century.



LANSDOWN ROAD
PARAGON
STREET
BROAD STREET
MILSOM STREET
WALCOT STREET
NEW BOND STREET
UPPER BOROUGH WALLS
HIGH STREET
GRAND PARADE
UNION STREET
ORANGE GROVE
CHEAP STREET
WESTGATE STREET
YORK STREET
PIERREPOINT STREET

The Building of Bath Museum

Holburne Museum

Rail & coach stations

Sally Lunn's House (1482) is one of Bath's oldest houses.

Exploring Bath

Piazza cellist

The beautiful and compact city of Bath is set among the rolling green hills of the Avon valley, and wherever you walk you will enjoy spendid views of the surrounding countryside. The traffic-free heart of this lively city is full of street musicians, museums, cafés and enticing shops, while the elegant honey-coloured Georgian houses, so characteristic of Bath, form an elegant backdrop to city life.

Bath Abbey, at the heart of the old city, begun in 1499

✝ Bath Abbey

13 Kingston Bldgs, Abbey Churchyard. ***Tel*** *01225 422462.* ○ *daily.* ● *during services.* **Donation.** ♿ 🛍 **www**.bathabbey.org

This splendid abbey was supposedly designed by divine agency. According to legend, God dictated the form of the church to Bishop Oliver King in a dream; this story has been immortalized in the wonderfully eccentric carvings on the west front. The bishop began work in 1499, rebuilding a church that had been founded in the 8th century. Memorials cover the walls and the varied Georgian inscriptions make fascinating reading. The spacious interior is remarkable for the fan vaulting of the nave, an addition made by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1874.

🏛 National Trust Assembly Rooms and Fashion Museum

Bennett St. ***Tel*** *01225 477173.* ○ *daily.* ● *25, 26 Dec.* 🎧 *for Fashion Museum.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.fashionmuseum.co.uk

The Assembly Rooms were built by Wood the Younger in 1769, as a meeting place for the fashionable elite and as an elegant backdrop for many glittering balls. Jane Austen's novel *Northanger Abbey* (1818) describes the atmosphere of gossip and flirtation here. In the basements is a collection of costumes in period settings. The display illustrates fashions from the 16th century to the present day.

🏛 No. 1 Royal Crescent

Royal Crescent. ***Tel*** *01225 428 126.* ○ *Tue–Sun & public hols.* ● *Dec, Jan, Good Fri.* 🛍 🎧 **www**.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk

This museum lets you inside the first house of this beautiful Georgian crescent, giving a glimpse of what life was like for 18th-century aristocrats, such as the Duke of York, who probably lived here. It is furnished down to such details as the dog-powered spit used to roast meat in front of the fire.

🏛 Holburne Museum of Art

Great Pulteney St. ***Tel*** *01225 466669.* ○ *call for details.* ● *for refurbishment until May 2011.* 🎧 ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.bath.ac.uk/holburne

This historic building is named after William Holburne of Menstrie (1793–1874), whose collections form the nucleus of the display of fine and decorative arts. Paintings can be seen by British artists such as Gainsborough and Stubbs.

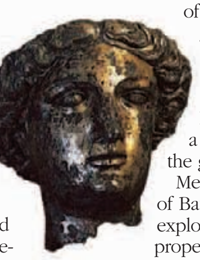
ROMAN BATHS

Entrance in Abbey Churchyard. ℹ *01225 477785.* ○ *daily.* ● *25, 26 Dec.* 🎧 ♿ *limited.* **www**.romanbaths.co.uk

According to legend, Bath owes its origin to the Celtic King Bladud who discovered the curative properties of its natural hot springs in 860 BC. Cast out from his kingdom as a leper, Bladud cured himself by imitating his swine and rolling in the hot mud at Bath.

In the first century, the Romans built baths around the spring, and a temple dedicated to the goddess Sulis Minerva, who combined the attributes of the Celt water goddess Sulis and the Roman goddess Minerva. Among the Roman relics is a bronze head of the goddess.

Medieval monks of Bath Abbey also exploited the springs' properties, but it was when Queen Anne visited in 1702–3 that Bath reached its zenith as a fashionable watering place.



Gilded bronze head of Sulis Minerva

Thermae Bath Spa

Hot Bath St. ***Tel*** *0844 888 0844.*
○ *9am–10pm daily (last adm: 7:30pm).* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* *under 16s not permitted.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.thermaebathspa.com

Tourists have bathed in the warm, mineral-rich waters of the spa town of Bath since Roman times and the opening of the Thermae Bath Spa, in 2006, has once again made Bath a popular day-spa destination. There are three pools fed by natural thermal waters: the New Royal Bath has two baths including an open-air rooftop pool with superb views over the city; across the road, the oval Cross Bath is a more intimate open-air bath, ideal for shorter sessions. The spa also offers scented steam rooms, footbaths and an array of treatments, bookable in advance. The signature therapy is watsu, a water-based version of the shiatsu massage.

American Museum

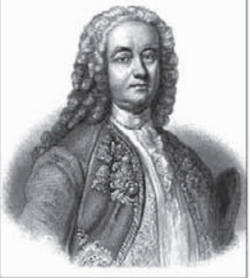
Claverton Manor, Claverton Down. ***Tel*** *01225 460503.*
○ *Mar–mid-Dec: Tue–Sun (daily in Aug).* ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍
www.americanmuseum.org

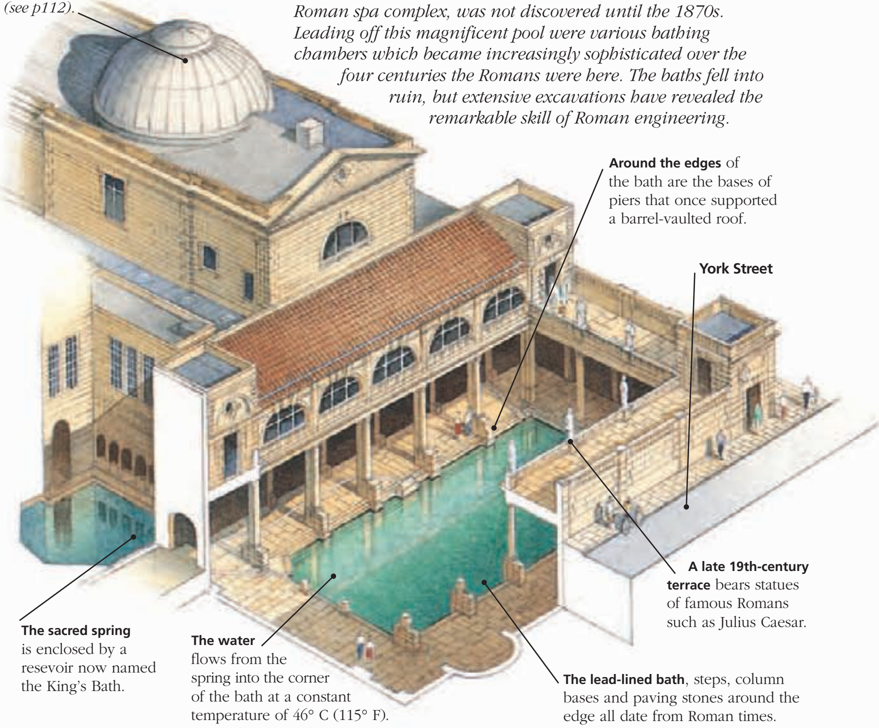
Founded in 1961, this was the first American museum to be established in this country. The rooms in the 1820 manor house are decorated in many styles, from the rudimentary dwellings of the first settlers to the opulent style of 19th-century homes. The museum has special sections on Shaker furniture, quilts and Native American art, and a replica of George Washington's Mount Vernon garden of 1785.

A 19th-century American Indian weathervane

RICHARD "BEAU" NASH (1674–1762)

Elected in 1704 as Master of Ceremonies, "Beau" Nash played a crucial role in transforming Bath into the fashionable centre of Georgian society. During his long career, he devised a never-ending round of games, balls and entertainment (including gambling) that kept the idle rich amused and ensured a constant flow of visitors.





The Great Bath

The open-air Great Bath, which stands at the heart of the Roman spa complex, was not discovered until the 1870s. Leading off this magnificent pool were various bathing chambers which became increasingly sophisticated over the four centuries the Romans were here. The baths fell into ruin, but extensive excavations have revealed the remarkable skill of Roman engineering.

The dome (1897) is based on St Stephen Walbrook church in London *(see p112).*

Around the edges of the bath are the bases of piers that once supported a barrel-vaulted roof.

York Street

A late 19th-century terrace bears statues of famous Romans such as Julius Caesar.

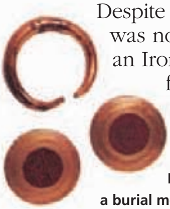
The sacred spring is enclosed by a resevoir now named the King's Bath.

The water flows from the spring into the corner of the bath at a constant temperature of 46° C (115° F).

The lead-lined bath, steps, column bases and paving stones around the edge all date from Roman times.

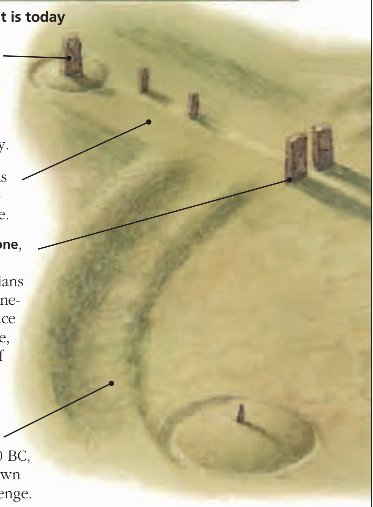
Stonehenge ⑪

Built in several stages from about 3000 BC, Stonehenge is Europe's most famous prehistoric monument. We can only guess at the rituals that took place here, but the alignment of the stones leaves little doubt that the circle is connected with the sun and the passing of the seasons, and that its builders possessed a sophisticated understanding of both arithmetic and astronomy. Despite popular belief, the circle was not built by the Druids, an Iron Age priestly cult that flourished in Britain from around 250 BC – more than 1,000 years after Stonehenge was abandoned.



Finds from a burial mound near Stonehenge (Devizes Museum)

Stonehenge as it is today



The Heel Stone casts a long shadow straight to the heart of the circle on Midsummer's day.

The Avenue forms a ceremonial approach to the site.

The Slaughter Stone, named by 17th-century antiquarians who believed Stonehenge to be a place of human sacrifice, was in fact one of a pair marking the entrance to the interiors.

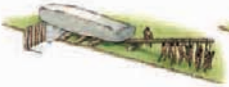
The Outer Bank, dug around 3000 BC, is the oldest known phase of Stonehenge.

RECONSTRUCTION OF STONEHENGE

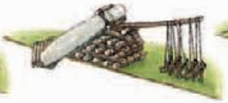
This illustration shows what Stonehenge probably looked like about 4,000 years ago.

BUILDING OF STONEHENGE

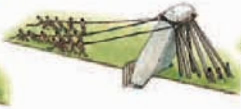
Stonehenge's monumental scale is more impressive given that the only tools available were made of stone, wood and bone. The labour involved in quarrying, transporting and erecting the huge stones was such that its builders must have been able to command immense resources and vast numbers of people. One method is explained below.



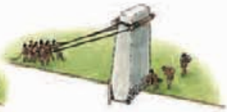
A sarsen stone *was moved on rollers and levered into a pit.*



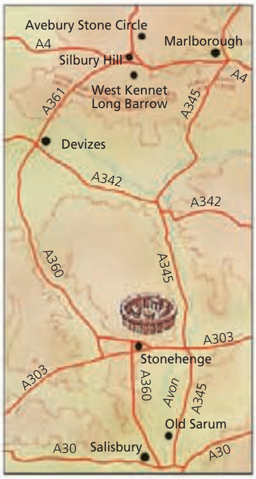
With levers *supported by timber packing, it was gradually raised.*



The stone *was then pulled upright by about 200 men hauling on ropes.*



The pit *round the base was packed tightly with stones and chalk.*



WILTSHIRE'S OTHER PREHISTORIC SITES

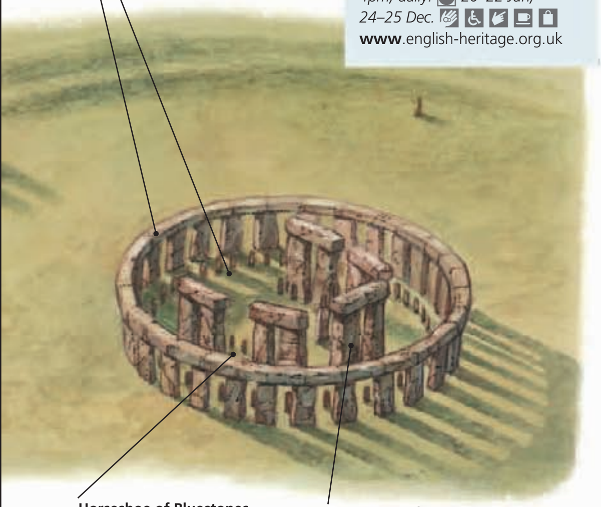
The open countryside of the Salisbury Plain made this area an important centre of prehistoric settlement, and today it is covered in many ancient remains. Ringing the horizon around Stonehenge are scores of circular barrows, or burial mounds, where members of the ruling class were honoured with burial close to the temple site. Ceremonial bronze weapons and other finds excavated around Stonehenge and the other local prehistoric sites can be seen in the museum at Salisbury *(see pp264–5)* and the main museum at Devizes.

Silbury Hill (NT) is Europe's largest prehistoric earthwork, but despite extensive excavations its purpose remains a mystery. Built out of chalk blocks around 2750 BC, the hill covers 2 ha (5 acres) and rises to a height of 40 m (131 ft). Nearby **West Kennet Long Barrow** (NT) is the biggest

Silbury Hill

The Sarsen Circle was erected around 2500 BC and is capped by lintel stones held in place by mortise and tenon joints.

The Bluestone Circle was built around 2500 BC out of some 80 slabs quarried in the Preseli Hills in south Wales.

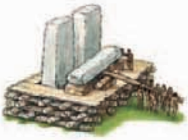


Horseshoe of Bluestones

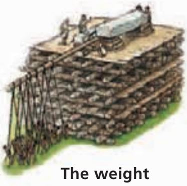
Horseshoe of Sarsen Trilothons

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

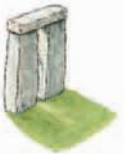
(EH) Off A303, Wilts. ℹ *0870 333 1181.* 🚆 *Salisbury then No. 3 bus.* ○ *Apr & May: 9:30am–6pm; Jun–Aug: 9am–7pm; Sep & Oct: 9:30am–6pm; Nov–Mar: 9:30am–4pm; daily.* ● *20–22 Jun, 24–25 Dec.* 🎧 ♿ 🎤 ☕ 🛍
www.english-heritage.org.uk



Alternate ends *of the lintel were levered up.*



The weight *of the lintel was supported by a timber platform.*



The lintel *was then levered sideways on to the uprights.*

chambered tomb in England, with numerous stone-lined "rooms" and a monumental entrance. Built as a communal cemetery around 3250 BC, it was in use for several centuries – old bodies were taken away to make room for newcomers.

Old Sarum is set within the massive ramparts of a 1st-century Romano-British hill fort. The Norman founders of Old Sarum built their own motte and bailey castle inside this ready-made fortification, and the remains of this survive along with the foundations of the huge cathedral of 1075. Above ground nothing remains of the town that once sat within the ramparts. The town's occupants moved to the fertile river valley site that became Salisbury during the early 12th century *(see pp264–5).*

Old Sarum

(EH) Castle Rd. ***Tel*** *01722 335398.*
○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 🎧 🛍

The chambered tomb of West Kennet Long Barrow (c.3250 BC)

Sarsen stone forming part of the Avebury Stone Circle

Avebury ⓬

(EH/NT) Wiltshire. 👥 *600.*
🚆 *Swindon then bus.* ℹ *Green St (01672 539250).* ○ *daily.* ☕ 🛍
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Built around 2500 BC, the **Avebury Stone Circle** surrounds the village of Avebury and was probably once some form of religious centre. Although the stones used are smaller than those at Stonehenge, the circle itself is larger. Superstitious villagers smashed many of the stones in the 18th century, believing the circle to have been a place of pagan sacrifice.

The original form of the circle is best appreciated by a visit to the excellent **Alexander Keiller Museum** to the west of the site, which illustrates in detail the construction of the circle. There is also a fascinating exhibition called "6,000 Years of Mystery", which explains the changing landscape of Avebury.

St James's Church has a Norman font carved with sea monsters, and a rare 15th-century choir screen.

Environs: A few minutes' drive east, **Marlborough** is an attractive town with a long and broad High Street lined with colonnaded Georgian shops.

Alexander Keiller Museum

(NT) Off High St. ***Tel*** *01672 538015.*
○ *daily.* ● *24, 25 Dec.* 🎧 ♿ 🍴
☕ 🛍 **www**.nationaltrust.org.uk

Salisbury ⑬

The "new" city of Salisbury was founded in 1220, when the old hill-top settlement of Old Sarum *(see p263)* was abandoned, being too arid and windswept, in favour of a new site among the lush water meadows where the rivers Avon, Nadder and Bourne meet. Locally sourced Purbeck marble and Chilmark stone were used for the construction of a new cathedral which was built mostly in the early 13th-century, over the remarkably short space of 38 years. Its magnificent landmark spire – the tallest in England – was an inspired afterthought added in 1280–1310.

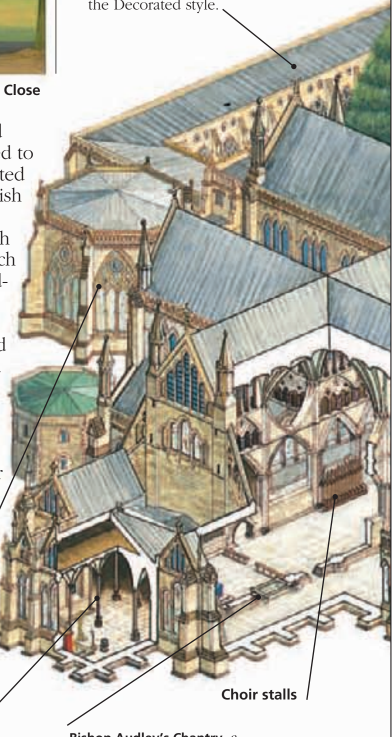
The early 14th-century house of John A'Port, Queen's Street

Bishop's Walk and a sculpture by Elisabeth Frink (1930–93), Cathedral Close

Exploring Salisbury
The spacious and tranquil **Close**, with its schools, almshouses and clergy housing, makes a fine setting for Salisbury's cathedral. Among the numerous elegant buildings here are the **Matrons' College**, built in 1682 as a home for widows and unmarried daughters of the clergy, and 13th-century **Malmesbury House** with its splendid early Georgian façade (1719), fronted by lovely wrought-iron gates. Other buildings of interest include the 13th-century **Medieval Hall**, the 13th-century **Wardrobe**, now a regimental museum, and the **Cathedral School**, housed in the 13th-century Bishop's Palace and famous for the quality of its choristers.

Beyond the walls of the Cathedral Close, Salisbury developed its chessboard layout, with areas devoted to different trades, perpetuated in street names such as Fish Row and Butcher Row. Leaving the Close through **High Street Gate**, you reach the busy High Street leading to the 13th-century **Church of St Thomas**, which has a lovely carved timber roof (1450), and a late 15th-century Doom painting, showing Christ seated in judgement and demons seizing the damned. Nearby in Silver Street, **Poultry Cross** was built in the 14th century as a covered poultry market. An intricate network of alleys fans out from this point with a number of fine timber-framed houses. In the large bustling **Market Place** the **Guildhall** is an unusual cream stone building from 1787–95, used for civic functions. More attractive are the brick and tile-hung houses on the north side of the square, many with Georgian façades concealing medieval houses.

Street signs reflecting trades of 13th-century Salisbury



The Cloisters are the largest in England. They were added between 1263 and 1284 in the Decorated style.

The Chapter House has an original of the *Magna Carta*. Its walls have stone friezes of the Old Testament.

The Trinity Chapel contains the grave of St Osmund who was bishop of Old Sarum from 1078–1099.

Choir stalls

Bishop Audley's Chantry, a magnificent 16th-century monument to the bishop, is one of several small chapels clustered round the altar.

Mompesson House

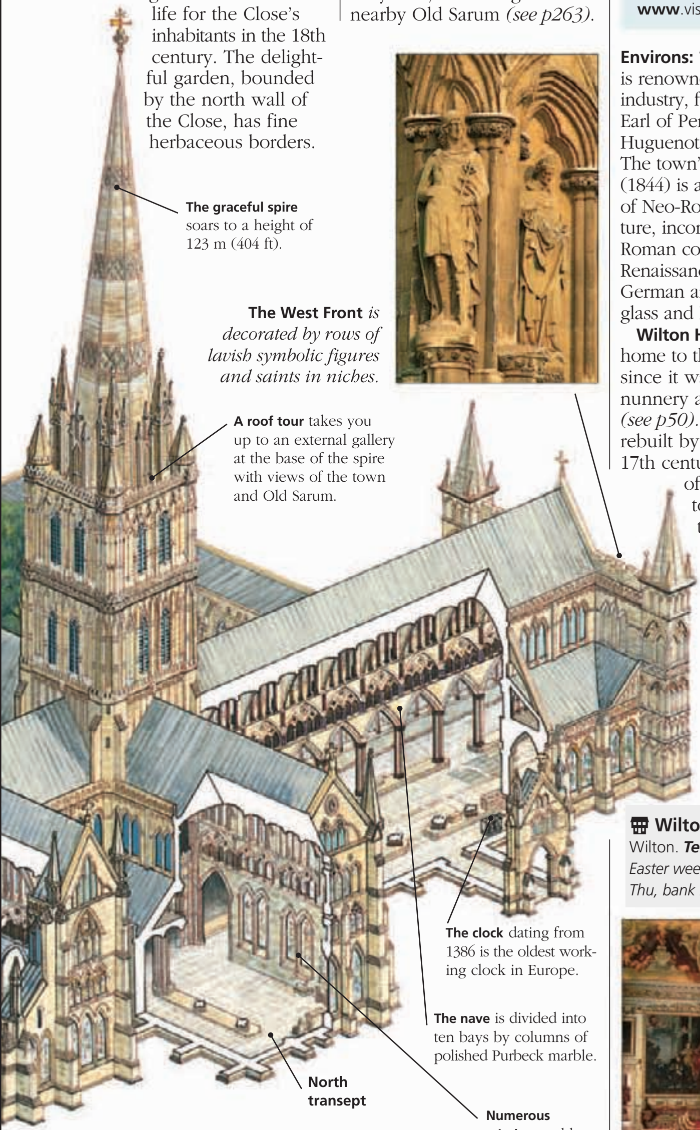
(NT) The Close. ***Tel*** *01722 420980.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Sat–Wed.* ⊘ ♿ *limited.* ☕ **www**.nationaltrust.org.uk

Built by a wealthy Wiltshire family in 1701, the handsomely furnished rooms of this house give an indication of life for the Close's inhabitants in the 18th century. The delightful garden, bounded by the north wall of the Close, has fine herbaceous borders.

Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

The Close. ***Tel*** *01722 332151.* ○ *Mon–Sat (Jul–Aug: Sun pm).* ⊘ ☕ 🛍 **www**.salisburymuseum.org.uk

In the medieval King's House, this museum has displays on early man, Stonehenge and nearby Old Sarum *(see p263)*.



The graceful spire soars to a height of 123 m (404 ft).

The West Front *is decorated by rows of lavish symbolic figures and saints in niches.*

A roof tour takes you up to an external gallery at the base of the spire with views of the town and Old Sarum.

The clock dating from 1386 is the oldest working clock in Europe.

The nave is divided into ten bays by columns of polished Purbeck marble.

North transept

Numerous windows add to the airy and spacious atmosphere of the interior.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

The Close. ***Tel*** *01722 555120.* ○ *daily.* **Donation.** ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.salisburycathedral.org.uk

The cathedral was mostly built between 1220 and 1258. It is a fine example of Early English Gothic architecture, typified by tall, sharply pointed lancet windows.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Wiltshire. 👥 *40,000.* 🚆 *South Western Rd.* 🚌 *Endless St.* ℹ *Fish Row (01722 334956).* ⛺ *Tue, Sat.* 🎭 *Salisbury International Arts Festival: end May–early Jun* **www**.visitsalisbury.com

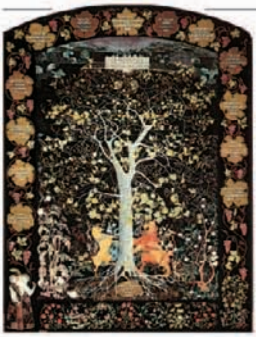
Environs: The town of Wilton is renowned for its carpet industry, founded by the 8th Earl of Pembroke using French Huguenot refugee weavers. The town's ornate **church** (1844) is a brilliant example of Neo-Romanesque architecture, incorporating genuine Roman columns, Flemish Renaissance woodwork, German and Dutch stained glass and Italian mosaics.

Wilton House has been home to the Earls of Pembroke since it was converted from a nunnery after the Dissolution *(see p50)*. The house, largely rebuilt by Inigo Jones in the 17th century, includes one of the original Tudor towers, a fine collection of art and a landscaped park with a Palladian bridge (1737). The Single and Double Cube State Rooms have magnificently frescoed ceilings and gilded stucco work, and were designed to hang a series of family portraits by Van Dyck.

Wilton House

Wilton. ***Tel*** *01722 746729.* ○ *Easter weekend, May–Aug: Sun–Thu, bank hol Sat.* ⊘ ♿ 🍴 🛍

Double Cube room, designed by Inigo Jones in 1653



The Longleat Tree **tapestry (1980) depicting a 400-year history**

Longleat House ⓮

Warminster, Wiltshire. ***Tel*** *01985 844400.* ⇌ *Warminster then taxi.*
House ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.*
Safari Park ○ *Feb–Nov: daily.* ✋ ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.longleat.co.uk

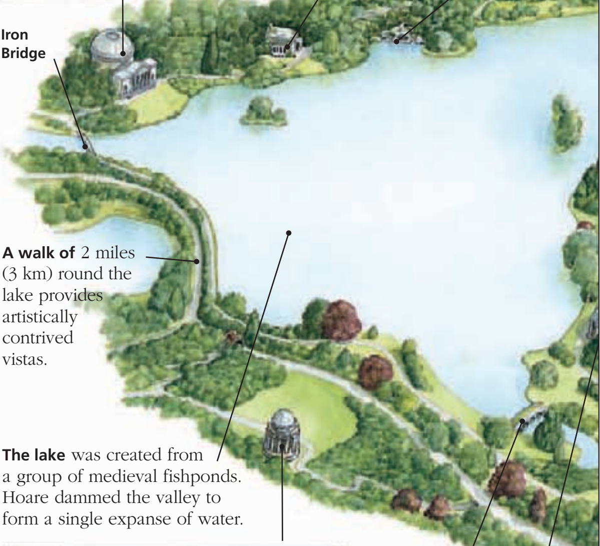
The architectural historian John Summerson coined the term “prodigy house” to describe the exuberance and grandeur of Elizabethan architecture that is so well represented at Longleat. The house was started in 1540, when John Thynne bought the ruins of a priory on the site for £53. Over the centuries subsequent owners have added their own touches. These include the Breakfast Room and Lower Dining Room (dating from the 1870s), modelled on the Venetian Ducal Palace, and erotic murals painted by the present owner, the 7th Marquess of Bath. Today, the Great Hall is the only remaining room which belongs to Thynne’s time.

In 1949, the 6th Marquess was the first landowner in Britain to open his stately home to the public, in order to fund the maintenance and preservation of the house and its estate. Parts of the grounds, landscaped by “Capability” Brown *(see p26),* were turned into an expansive safari park in 1966, where lions, tigers and other wild animals roam freely. This, along with other additions such as England’s longest hedge maze, the Adventure Castle and Blue Peter Maze, and special events, now draw even more visitors than the house.

Stourhead ⓯

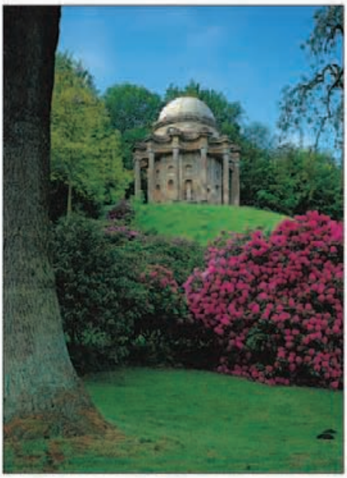
Stourhead is among the finest examples of 18th-century landscape gardening in Britain *(see pp26–7).* The garden was begun in the 1740s by Henry Hoare (1705–85), who inherited the estate and transformed it into a breathtaking work of art. Hoare created the lake, surrounding it with rare trees and plants, and Neo-Classical Italianate temples, grottoes and bridges. The Palladian-style house, built by Colen Campbell *(see p28),* dates from 1724.

Pantheon
Hercules is among the statues of Roman gods housed in the elegant Pantheon (1753).



A walk of 2 miles (3 km) round the lake provides artistically contrived vistas.

The lake was created from a group of medieval fishponds. Hoare dammed the valley to form a single expanse of water.

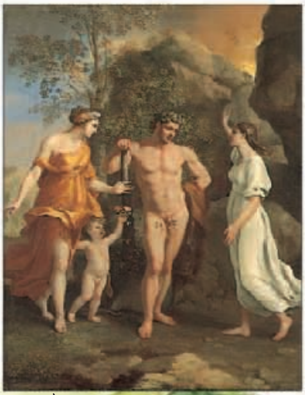


★ Temple of Apollo
The Classical temples that dot the garden were all designed by influential architect Henry Flitcroft (1679–1769).

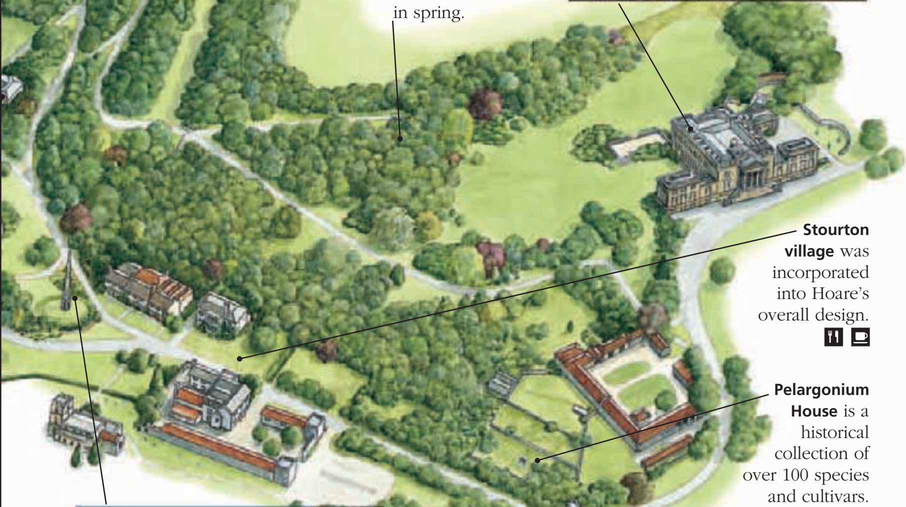
Grotto
Tunnels lead to an artificial cave with a pool and a life-size statue of the guardian of the River Stour, sculpted by John Cheere in 1748.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

(NT) Stourton, Wiltshire. ***Tel*** *01747 841152.* 🚉 *Gillingham (Dorset) then taxi.* **House** ○ *Mar–Oct: 11am–5pm Fri–Tue.* **Gardens** ○ *9am–7pm (or dusk if earlier) daily.* ✋ ♿ *limited.* ✋ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.national-trust.org.uk/stourhead



★ Stourhead House
Reconstructed after a fire in 1902, the house contains fine Chippendale furniture. The art collection reflects Henry Hoare's Classical tastes and includes The Choice of Hercules *(1637) by Nicolas Poussin.*



Colourful shrubs around the house include fragrant rhododendrons in spring.

Stourton village was incorporated into Hoare's overall design. 🍴 ☕

Pelargonium House is a historical collection of over 100 species and cultivars.

The reception offers information to help you enjoy your visit.

Entrance and car park

🍴 🛍

St Peter's Church
The parish church contains monuments to the Hoare family. The medieval Bristol Cross, nearby, was brought from Bristol in 1765.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Temple of Apollo
- ★ Stourhead House

Shaftesbury ⑯

Dorset. 👥 *8,000.* 🚌 ℹ *8 Bell St (01747 853514).* ⛺ *Thu.*
www.ruraldorset.com

Hilltop Shaftesbury, with its cobbled streets and 18th-century cottages is often used as a setting for films to give a flavour of Old England. Picturesque **Gold Hill** is lined on one side by a wall of the demolished **abbey**, founded by King Alfred in 888. Only the excavated remains of the abbey church survive, and many masonry fragments are found in the local museum.

The Almshouse (1437) adjoining the Abbey Church, Sherborne

Sherborne ⑰

Dorset. 👥 *9,500.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *Digby Rd (01935 815341).* ⛺ *Thu, Sat.*
www.westdorset.com

Few other towns in Britain have such a wealth of unspoilt medieval buildings. Edward VI *(see p41)* founded the famous Sherborne School in 1550, saving intact the splendid **Abbey Church** and other monastic buildings that might otherwise have been demolished in the Dissolution *(see p50).* Remains of the Saxon church can be seen in the abbey's façade, but the most striking feature is the 15th-century fan-vaulted ceiling.

Sherborne Castle, built by Sir Walter Raleigh *(see p51)* in 1594, is a wonderfully varied building that anticipates the flamboyant Jacobean style. Raleigh also lived briefly in the early 12th-century **Old Castle**, which now stands in ruins, demolished during the Civil War *(see p52).*

Environs: West of Sherborne, past Yeovil, is the magnificent Elizabethan **Montacute House** *(see p245),* set in 120 ha (300 acres) of grounds. It is noted for tapestries, and for the Tudor and Jacobean portraits in the vast Long Gallery.

⌂ Sherborne Castle
Off A30. ***Tel*** *01935 813182.*
Castle ○ *Apr–Oct: Tue–Thu, Sat, Sun & bank hols (pm).* **Grounds** ○ *Apr–Oct: Thu–Tue.* 🎟 ☕ 🛍
www.sherbornecastle.com

⌂ Old Castle
(EH) Off A30. ***Tel*** *01935 812730.*
○ *Easter–Oct: daily.* 🎟 ♿ 🛍

⌂ Montacute House
(NT) Montacute. ***Tel*** *01935 823289.*
House ○ *Mar–Oct: Wed–Mon.*
Grounds ○ *Apr–Nov: Wed–Mon; Dec–Mar: Wed–Sun.* 🎟 🍴 🛍

Abbotsbury ⑱

Dorset. 👥 *400.* ℹ *Bakehouse Market St (01305 871130).*
www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk

The name Abbotsbury recalls the town's 11th-century Benedictine abbey of which little but the huge tithe barn, built around 1400, remains.

The Swannery at Abbotsbury

Nobody knows when the **Swannery** here was founded, but the earliest record dates to 1393. Mute swans come to nest in the breeding season, attracted by the reed beds along the Fleet, a brackish lagoon protected from the sea by a high ridge of pebbles called **Chesil Bank** *(see p242).* Its wild atmosphere makes an appealing contrast to the south coast resorts, although strong currents make swimming too dangerous. **Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Gardens** are the frost-free home to many new plants, discovered by botanists travelling in South America and Asia.

Swannery
New Barn Rd. ***Tel*** *01305 871858.* ○ *mid-Mar–Oct: daily.* 🎟 ♿ ☕ 🛍

🍁 Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Gardens
Off B3157. ***Tel*** *01305 871387.* ○ *daily.* ● *24 Dec–1 Jan.* 🎟 ♿ ☕ 🛍

Weymouth ⑲

Dorset. 👥 *62,000.* 🚆 🚌 ⛴
ℹ *King's Statue, The Esplanade (01305 785747).* ⛺ *Thu.*

Weymouth's popularity as a seaside resort began in 1789, when George III paid the first of many summer visits here. The king's bathing machine can be seen in the old brewery complex, **Brewers' Quay**; his

Weymouth Quay, Dorset's south coast

statue is a prominent feature on the seafront. Here gracious Georgian terraces and hotels look across to the beautiful expanse of Weymouth Bay. Different in character is the old town around Custom House Quay with its fishing boats and old seamen's inns. Weymouth will host the sailing events at the 2012 London Olympics.

🏛 Brewers' Quay
Hope Sq. ***Tel*** *01305 777622.* ○ *daily.*
● *25 & 26 Dec, 2 wks in Jan.* 🎟

A 55 m (180 ft) giant carved on the chalk hillside, Cerne Abbas (NT)

Dorchester ⑳

Dorset. 👥 *16,000.* 🚆 ℹ *Antelope Walk (01305 267992).* 🛒 *Wed.*
www.westdorset.com

Dorchester, the county town of Dorset, is still recognizably the town in which Thomas Hardy based his novel *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886). Here, among the many 17th- and 18th-century houses lining the High Street, is the **Dorset County Museum**, where the original manuscript of the novel is displayed. Dorchester has the only example of a **Roman town house** in Britain. The remains reveal architectural details including a fine mosaic. There are also finds from Iron Age and Roman sites on the outskirts of the town. **Maumbury Rings** (Weymouth Avenue), is a Roman amphitheatre, originally a Neolithic henge. To the west, many Roman graves have been found below the Iron Age hill fort, **Poundbury Camp**.

Environs: Just southwest of Dorchester, **Maiden Castle** *(see p43)* is a massive monument dating from around 100 BC. In AD 43 it was the scene of a battle when the Romans fought the Iron Age people of southern England.

To the north lies the charming village of **Cerne Abbas** with its magnificent medieval tithe barn and monastic buildings. The huge chalk figure of a giant on the hillside here is a fertility figure thought to represent either the Roman god Hercules or an Iron Age warrior.

East of Dorchester are the churches, thatched villages and rolling hills immortalized in Hardy's novels. Picturesque **Bere Regis** is the Kingsbere of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles,* where the tombs of the family whose name inspired the novel may be seen in the Saxon **church**. **Hardy's Cottage** is where the writer was born and **Max Gate** is the house he designed and lived in from 1885 until his death. His heart is buried with his family at **Stinsford** church – his body was given a public funeral at Westminster Abbey *(pp92–3).*

Hardy's statue, Dorchester

There are beautiful gardens *(see p245)* and a magnificent medieval hall at 15th-century **Athelhampton House**.

THOMAS HARDY (1840–1928)

The vibrant, descriptive novels and poems of Thomas Hardy, one of England's best-loved writers, are set against the background of his native Dorset. The Wessex countryside provides a constant and familiar stage against which his characters enact their fate. Vivid accounts of rural life record a key moment in history, when mechanization was about to destroy ancient farming methods, just as the Industrial Revolution had done in the towns a century before *(see pp54–5)*. Hardy's powerfully visual style has made novels such as *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891) popular with modern film-makers, and drawn literary pilgrims to the villages and landscapes that inspired his fiction.

Nastassja Kinski in Roman Polanski's film *Tess* (1979)

🏛 Dorset County Museum
High West St. ***Tel*** *01305 262735.*
○ *Mon–Sat (Jul–Sep: daily).* ● *25, 26 Dec.* 🎟 *valid for one year.* ♿ *ltd.*
🛍 **www**.dorsetcountymuseum.org

🏠 Hardy's Cottage
(NT) Higher Bockhampton. ***Tel*** *01305 262366.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Sun–Thu.* 🎟
🛍 ♿ *garden only.*

🏠 Max Gate
(NT) Alington Ave, Dorchester.
Tel *01305 262538.* ○ *Apr–Sep: Sun, Mon & Wed (pm).* 🎟 ♿ 🛍

🏠 Athelhampton House
Athelhampton. ***Tel*** *01305 848363.*
○ *Sun–Thu (Nov–Feb: Sun).* 🎟
♿ *gardens only.* ☕ 🍴 🛍
www.athelhamptonhouse.co.uk

Corfe Castle ㉑

(NT) Dorset. ***Tel*** *01929 481294.* 🚆 *Wareham then bus.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 & 26 Dec.* ✋ ♿ *limited.* ✋ *Mar–Oct; Nov–Feb by arrangement.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.nationaltrust.org.uk

The spectacular ruins of Corfe Castle romantically crown a jagged pinnacle of rock above the charming unspoilt village that shares its name. The castle has dominated the landscape since the 11th century, first as a royal fortification, then as the dramatic ruins seen today. In 1635 the castle was purchased by Sir John Bankes, whose wife and her retainers – mostly women – courageously held out against 600 Parliamentary troops, in a six-week siege during the Civil War *(see pp52–3)*. The castle was eventually taken through treachery and in 1646 Parliament voted to have it "slighted" – deliberately blown up to prevent it being used again. From the ruins there are far-reaching views over the Isle of Purbeck and its coastline.

The ruins of Corfe Castle, dating mainly from Norman times

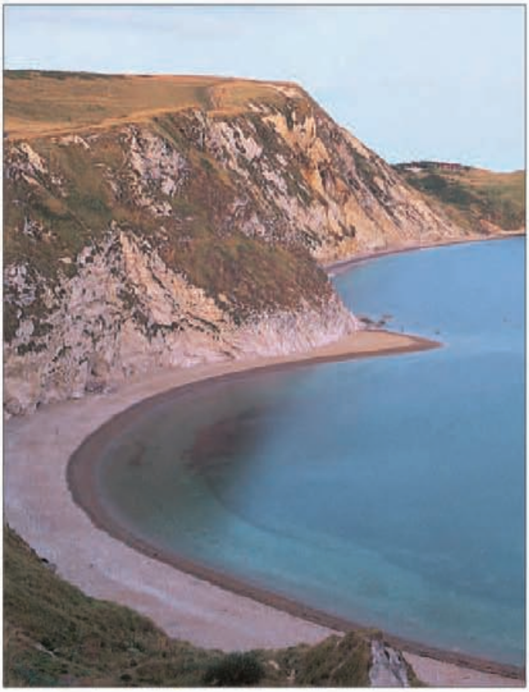
Isle of Purbeck ㉒

Dorset. 🚆 *Wareham.* ⛴ *Shell Bay, Studland.* ℹ *Swanage (01929 422885).* **www**.swanage.gov.uk

The Isle of Purbeck, which is in fact a peninsula, is the source of the grey shelly limestone, known as Purbeck marble, from which the castle and surrounding houses were built. The geology changes to the southwest at **Kimmeridge**, where the muddy shale is rich in fossils and oil reserves.

The Isle, a World Heritage site, is fringed with unspoilt beaches. **Studland Bay** (NT) – with its white sand and its sand-dune nature reserve, rich in birdlife – has been rated one of Britain's best beaches. Sheltered **Lulworth Cove** is almost encircled by white cliffs, and there is a fine cliff-top walk to Durdle Door *(see p243)*, a natural chalk arch.

The main resort in the area is **Swanage**, the port where Purbeck stone was transported by ship to London, to be used for everything from street paving to church building. Unwanted masonry from demolished buildings was shipped back and this is how Swanage got its wonderfully ornate **Town Hall** façade, designed by Wren around 1668.



Beach adjoining Lulworth Cove, Isle of Purbeck

Poole ㉓

Dorset. 👥 *142,000.* 🚆 🚌 ⛴ ℹ *Poole Quay (01202 253253).* **www**.pooletourism.com

Situated on one of the largest natural harbours in the world, Poole is an ancient, still thriving, seaport. The quay is lined with old warehouses, modern apartments and a marina, overlooking a safe sheltered bay. The **Poole Museum**, partly housed in 15th-century cellars on the quay, underwent major refurbishment in 2007.

Nearby **Brownsea Island** (reached by boat from the quay) is given over to a wood-land nature reserve with a waterfowl and heron sanctuary. The fine views of the Dorset coast add to the appeal of the island.

Poole Museum
High St. ***Tel*** *01202 262600.*
○ *Apr–Sep: daily; Oct–Mar: Tue–Sun.* ● *1 Jan, 25, 26 Dec.* ♿
www.poole.gov.uk

Brownsea Island
(NT) Poole. ***Tel*** *01202 707744.*
○ *Apr–Nov: daily (boat trips leave the quayside every 30 mins during the season).* ♿ ☕ 🛍

Boats in Poole harbour

Wimborne Minster ㉔

Dorset. 👥 *6,500.* 🚌 ℹ *29 High St (01202 886116).* *Fri–Sun.*
www.ruraldorset.com

The fine collegiate church of Wimborne's **Minster** was founded in 705 by Cuthburga, sister of King Ina of Wessex. It fell prey to marauding Danish raiders in the 10th century, and the imposing grey church we see today dates from the refounding by Edward the Confessor *(see p47)* in 1043. Stonemasons made use of the local Purbeck marble, carving beasts, biblical scenes, and a mass of zig-zag decoration.

The 16th-century **Priest's House Museum** has rooms furnished in the style of different periods and an enchanting hidden garden.

Environs: Designed for the Bankes family after the destruction of Corfe Castle, **Kingston Lacy** was acquired by the National Trust in 1981. The estate has always been farmed by traditional methods and is astonishingly rich in wildlife, rare flowers and butterflies. This quiet, forgotten corner of Dorset is grazed by rare Red Devon cattle and can be explored using paths and "green lanes" that date back to Roman and Saxon times. The fine 17th-century house on the estate contains an outstanding collection of paintings, including works by Rubens, Velázquez and Titian.

Priest's House Museum
High St. ***Tel*** *01202 883402.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Mon–Sat.* ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍

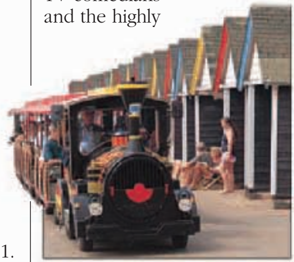
Kingston Lacy
(NT) on B3082. ***Tel*** *0845 0511700.*
House ○ *Apr–Oct: Wed–Sun; 2 wks at Christmas.* **Gardens** ○ *Apr–Oct: daily; Nov–Mar: Sat & Sun.* ♿ *gardens only.* 🍴 🛍

Bournemouth ㉕

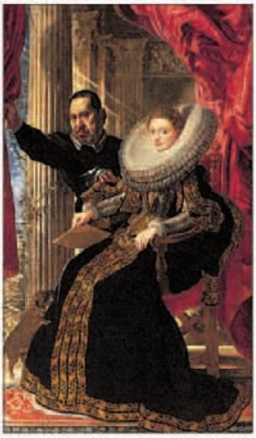
Dorset. 👥 *165,000.* ✈ 🚉 🚌.
ℹ *westover road (01202 451700).*
www.bournemouth.co.uk

Bournemouth's popularity as a seaside resort is due to an almost unbroken sweep of sandy beach, extending from the mouth of Poole Harbour to Hengistbury Head. Most of the seafront is built up, with large seaside villas and exclusive hotels. To the west there are numerous clifftop parks and gardens, interrupted by beautiful wooded river ravines, known as "chines". The varied and colourful garden of **Compton Acres** was conceived as a museum of many different garden styles.

In central Bournemouth the amusement arcades, casinos, nightclubs and shops cater for the city's many visitors. In the summer, pop groups, TV comedians and the highly regarded Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform at various venues in the city. The **Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum**, housed in a late Victorian villa, has an extensive collection, with many fine Oriental and Victorian artefacts.



A toy train on the popular seafront at Bournemouth



***Marchesa Maria Grimaldi* by Sir Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640), Kingston Lacy**

Environs: The magnificent **Christchurch Priory**, east of Bournemouth, is 95 m (310 ft) in length – the longest church in England. It was rebuilt between the 13th and 16th centuries and presents a sequence of different styles. The original nave, built around 1093, is an impressive example of Norman architecture, but the highlight is the intricate stone reredos, which features a Tree of Jesse, tracing the lineage of Christ. Next to the Priory are the ruins of a Norman **castle**.

Between Bournemouth and Christchurch, **Hengistbury Head** is well worth climbing for grassland flowers, butterflies and sea views, while **Stanpit Marsh**, to the west of Bournemouth, is an excellent spot for viewing herons and other wading birds.

Compton Acres
Canford Cliffs Rd. ***Tel*** *01202 700778.* ○ *daily.* 🛍 ♿ 🍴
www.comptonacres.co.uk

Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum
Eastcliff. ***Tel*** *01202 451858.*
○ *Tue–Sun.* ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.russell-cotes.bournemouth.gov.uk

PW 33
PW 33

DEVON AND CORNWALL

DEVON · CORNWALL

Miles of magnificently varied coastline dominate this magical corner of Britain. Popular seaside resorts alternate with secluded coves and unspoilt fishing villages rich in maritime history. In contrast there are lush, exotic gardens and the wild terrain of the moorland interior, dotted with tors and historic remains.

Geographical neighbours, the counties of Devon and Cornwall are very different in character. Celtic Cornwall, with its numerous villages named after early Christian missionaries, is mostly stark and treeless at its centre. In many places it is still scarred by the remains of tin and copper mining that has played an important part in the economy for some 4,000 years. Yet this does not detract from the beauty and variety of the coastline dotted with lighthouses and tiny coves, and penetrated by deep tidal rivers.

Devon, by contrast, is a land of lush pasture divided into a patchwork of tiny fields and threaded with narrow lanes, whose banks support a mass of flowers from the first spring primroses to summer's colourful mixture of campion, foxglove, oxeye daisies and blue cornflowers. The leisurely pace of rural life here, and in Cornwall, contrasts with life in the bustling cities. Exeter with its magnificent cathedral, historic Plymouth, elegant Truro and Elizabethan Totnes are urban centres brimming with life and character.

The spectacular coastline and the mild climate of the region attract families, boating enthusiasts and surfers. For those in search of solitude, the Southwest Coastal Path provides access to the more tranquil areas. There are fishing villages and harbours whose heyday was in the buccaneering age of Drake and Raleigh *(see p51),* and inland the wild moorland of Bodmin and Dartmoor, which provided inspiration for many romantic tales. Many of these are associated with King Arthur *(see p285)* who, according to legend, was born at Tintagel on Cornwall's dramatically contorted north coast.

Beach huts on the seafront at Paignton, near Torquay

◁ **Fishing boats in Port Isaac, on Cornwall's north coast**

Exploring Devon and Cornwall

Romantic Moorland dominates the inland parts of Devon and Cornwall, ideal walking country with few roads and magnificent views stretching for miles. By contrast the extensive coastline is indented by hundreds of sheltered river valleys, each one seemingly isolated from the rest of the world – one reason why Devon and Cornwall can absorb so many visitors and yet still seem uncrowded. Wise tourists get to know one small part of Devon or Cornwall intimately, soaking up the atmosphere of the region, rather than rushing to see everything in the space of a week.

KEY

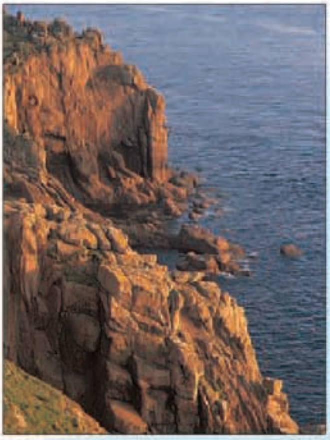
- Motorway
- Major road
- Secondary road
- Minor road
- Scenic route
- Main railway
- Minor railway
- Summit

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

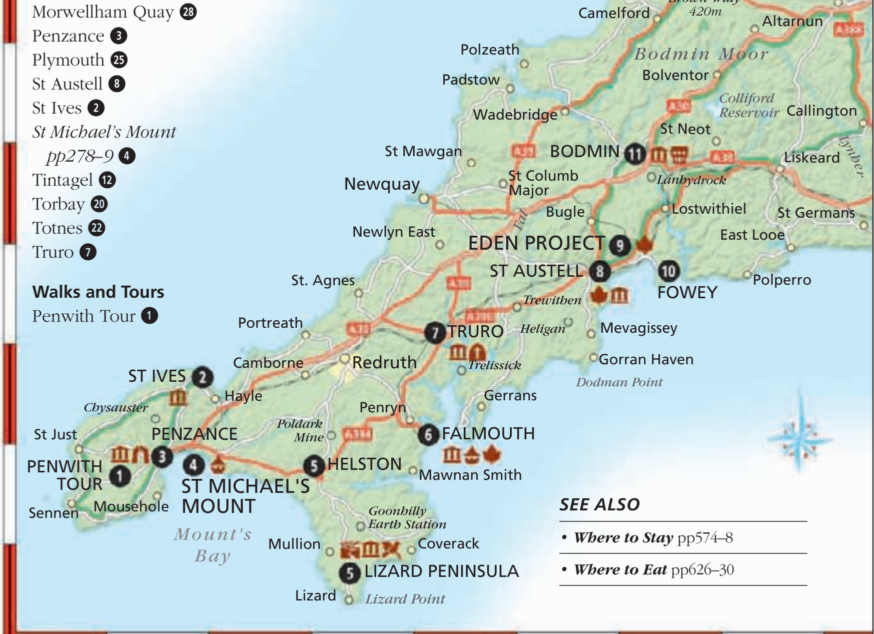
Appledore ⑯
Barnstaple ⑰
Bideford ⑮
Bodmin ⑪
Buckfastleigh ㉓
Buckland Abbey ㉖
Bude ⑬
Burgh Island ㉔
Clovelly ⑭
Cotehele ㉗
Dartmoor pp294–5 ㉙
Dartmouth ㉑
Eden Project pp282–3 ⑨
Exeter ⑲
Falmouth ⑥
Fowey ⑩
Helston and the Lizard Peninsula ⑤
Lynton and Lynmouth ⑱
Morwellham Quay ㉘
Penzance ③
Plymouth ㉕
St Austell ⑧
St Ives ②
St Michael's Mount pp278–9 ④
Tintagel ⑫
Torbay ⑳
Totnes ㉒
Truro ⑦

Walks and Tours

Penwith Tour ①



The dramatic cliffs of Land's End, England's most westerly point


Lundy
Barnstaple or Bideford Bay
Hartland Point
CLOVELLY 14
Hartland
Torridge
Morewenstow
Holsworthy Beacon
BUDE 13
Bude Bay
Marhamchurch
Tamar
Week St Mary
Ashwater
Boyton
Boscastle
A39
12 TINTAGEL
Brown Willy 420m
Launceston
Camelford
Altarnun
A388
Polzeath
Bodmin Moor
Bolventor
Padstow
Colliford Reservoir
A30
Callington
Wadebridge
St Neot
Lynher
St Mawgan
A30
BODMIN 11
A38
Liskeard
Newquay
St Columb Major
Lanhydrock
Lostwithiel
St Germans
Bugle
Fal
Newlyn East
EDEN PROJECT 9
East Looe
ST AUSTELL 8
10 FOWEY
St. Agnes
A30
Polperro
Trewithen
Portreath
A390
A30
7 TRURO
Heligan
Mevagissey
Camborne
Redruth
Trelissick
Gorran Haven
ST IVES 2
Dodman Point
Hayle
Gerrans
Chysauster
Penryn
St Just
PENZANCE
Poldark Mine
A394
6 FALMOUTH
PENWITH TOUR 1
3
4
5 HELSTON
Mawnan Smith
ST MICHAEL'S MOUNT
Sennen
Mousehole
Goonhilly Earth Station
Mount's Bay
Mullion
Coverack
5 LIZARD PENINSULA
Lizard
Lizard Point

SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp574–8
- ***Where to Eat*** pp626–30

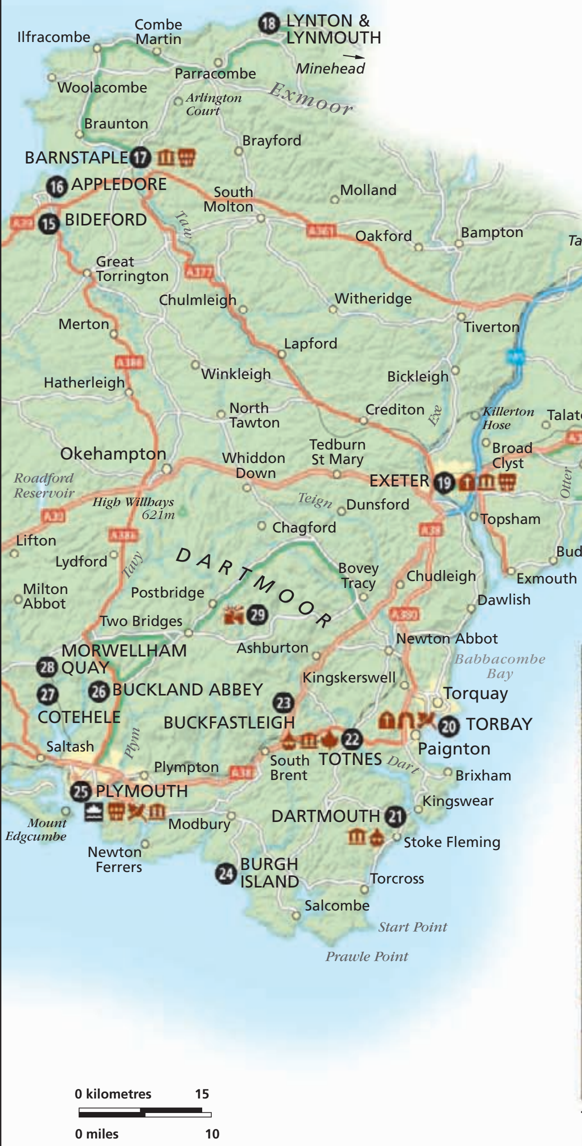
For additional map symbols *see back flap*

Sub-tropical gardens at Torquay, the popular seaside resort

GETTING AROUND

Large numbers of drivers, many towing caravans (trailers), travel along the M5 motorway and A30 trunk road from mid-July to early September and travel can be slow, especially on Saturdays. Once in Devon and Cornwall, allow ample time if you are travelling by car along the region's narrow and high-banked lanes.

The regular train services, running from Paddington to Penzance, along Brunel's historic Great Western Railway, stop at most major towns. Aside from this, you are dependent on taxis or infrequent local buses.


Ilfracombe
Combe Martin
18 LYNTON & LYNMOUTH
Minehead
Parracombe
Woolacombe
Arlington Court
Exmoor
Braunton
Brayford
BARNSTAPLE 17
16 APPLEDORE
South Molton
Molland
15 BIDEFORD
A39
Taw
A361
Oakford
Bampton
Taunton
Great Torrington
A377
Chulmleigh
Witheridge
Yeovil
Merton
Tiverton
Upottery
A386
Lapford
Hatherleigh
Winkleigh
Bickleigh
North Tawton
Crediton
Exe
Killerton Hose
Talaton
Honiton
A35
A30
Okehampton
Whiddon Down
Tedburn St Mary
Broad Clyst
Ottery St. Mary
Axe
Roadford Reservoir
EXETER 19
Otter
High Willhays 621m
Teign
Dunsford
Beer
A30
Topsham
Sidmouth
Chagford
A38
Lifton
A386
Budleigh Salterton
Lydford
Tavy
DARTMOOR
Bovey Tracy
Chudleigh
Exmouth
Lyme Bay
Milton Abbot
Postbridge
Dawlish
29
A380
Two Bridges
Newton Abbot
MORWELLHAM
28 QUAY
Ashburton
Babbacombe Bay
Kingskerswell
27
26 BUCKLAND ABBEY
Torquay
23
COTEHELE
BUCKFASTLEIGH
20 TORBAY
22
Saltash
Plym
Paignton
Plympton
South Brent
TOTNES
Dart
A38
Brixham
25 PLYMOUTH
Kingswear
Mount Edgcumbe
Modbury
DARTMOUTH 21
Stoke Fleming
Newton Ferrers
24 BURGH ISLAND
Torcross
Salcombe
Start Point
Prawle Point
0 kilometres 15
0 miles 10

Typical thatched, stone cottages, Buckland-in-the-Moor, Dartmoor

Penwith Tour ❶

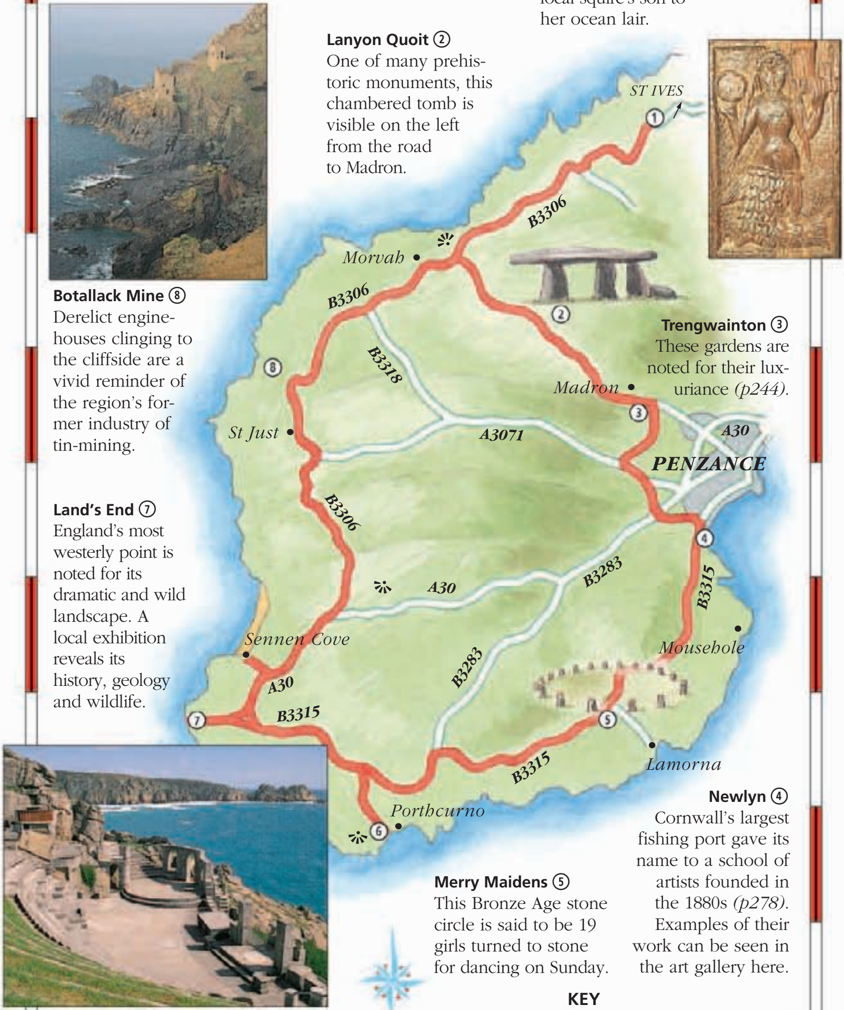
This tour passes through a spectacular, remote Cornish landscape, dotted with relics of the tin mining industry, picturesque fishing villages and many prehistoric remains. The magnificent coastline varies between the gentle rolling moorland in the north and the rugged, windswept cliffs that characterize the dramatic south coast. The beauty of the area, combined with the clarity of light, has attracted artists since the late 19th century. Their work can be seen in Newlyn, St Ives and Penzance.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Tour length: *31 miles (50 km)*
Stopping-off points: *There are pubs and cafés in most villages. Sennen Cove makes a pleasant mid-way stop.* (See also pp684–5.)

Zennor ①
The carved mermaid in the church recalls the legend of the mermaid who lured the local squire's son to her ocean lair.

Lanyon Quoit ②
One of many prehistoric monuments, this chambered tomb is visible on the left from the road to Madron.



Botallack Mine ⑧
Derelict engine-houses clinging to the cliffside are a vivid reminder of the region's former industry of tin-mining.

Trengwainton ③
These gardens are noted for their luxuriance *(p244).*

Land's End ⑦
England's most westerly point is noted for its dramatic and wild landscape. A local exhibition reveals its history, geology and wildlife.

Newlyn ④
Cornwall's largest fishing port gave its name to a school of artists founded in the 1880s *(p278).* Examples of their work can be seen in the art gallery here.

Merry Maidens ⑤
This Bronze Age stone circle is said to be 19 girls turned to stone for dancing on Sunday.

Minack Theatre ⑥
This Ancient Greek-style theatre (1923) overlooks a magical bay of Porthcurno. It forms a magnificent backdrop for productions in summer.

0 kilometres 3
0 miles 2

KEY

🟥 Tour route
▬ Other roads
✻ Viewpoint

St Ives ❷

Cornwall. 👥 *11,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *Street-an-Pol (01736 796297).*
www.visit-westcornwall.com

St Ives's **Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden** and **Tate St Ives** celebrate the work of a group of artists who set up a seaside art colony here from the 1920s. The former presents the sculptor's work in the house and garden where she lived and worked for many years. Tate St Ives, designed to frame a panoramic view of Porthmeor Beach, reminds visitors of the natural surroundings that inspired the art on display within. A museum at the Leach Pottery (Tel: 01736 799703) celebrates the life and work of potter Bernard Leach, another luminary of the St Ives Society of Artists.

The Lower Terrace, Tate St Ives

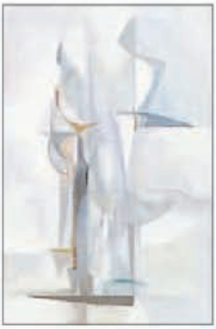
The town of St Ives remains a typical English seaside resort, surrounded by a crescent of golden sands. Popular taste rules in the many other art galleries tucked down winding alleys with names such as Teetotal Street, a legacy of the town's Methodist heritage. Many galleries are converted cellars and lofts where fish were once salted and packed. In between are whitewashed cottages with tiny gardens brimming with flowers, their vibrant colours made intense by the unusually clear light that first attracted artists to St Ives.

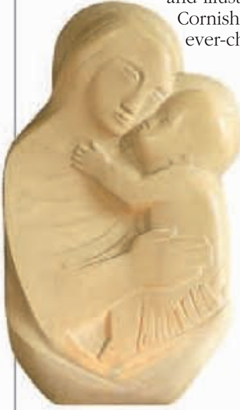
🏛 **Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden**
Barnoon Hill. ***Tel*** *01736 796226.*
○ *daily (Nov–Feb: Tue–Sun).* ● *24–26 Dec.* ▨ ♿ *by appt.* 🛍

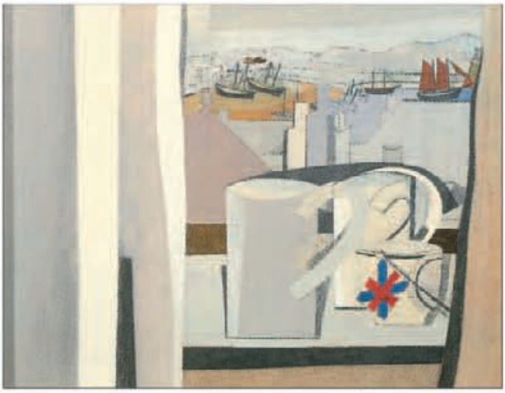
🏛 **Tate St Ives**
Porthmeor Beach. ***Tel*** *01736 796226.* ○ *daily (Nov–Feb: Tue–Sun).* ● *24–26 Dec; occasionally for rehanging – phone to check.* ▨ ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.tate.org.uk/stives

TWENTIETH-CENTURY ARTISTS OF ST IVES

Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth formed the nucleus of a group of artists that made a major contribution to the development of abstract art in Europe. In the 1920s, St Ives together with Newlyn *(see p276)* became a place for aspiring artists. Among the prolific artists associated with the town are the potter Bernard Leach (1887–1979) and the painter Patrick Heron (1920–99), whose *Coloured Glass Window (see p240)* dominates the Tate St Ives entrance. Much of the art on display at Tate St Ives is abstract and illustrates new responses to the rugged Cornish landscape, the human figure and the ever-changing patterns of sunlight on sea.


John Wells' *(1907–2000) key interests are in light, curved forms and birds in flight, as revealed in* Aspiring Forms *(1950).*


Barbara Hepworth *(1903–75) was one of the foremost abstract sculptors of her time.* Madonna and Child *(1953) can be seen in the church of St Ia.*


Ben Nicholson's *(1894–1982) work shows a change in style from simple scenes, such as the view from his window, to a preoccupation with shapes – as seen in this painting* St Ives, Cornwall *(1943–5). Later, his interest moved towards pure geometric blocks of colour.*

Penzance ❸

Cornwall. 👥 *15,000.* 🚆 🚌 ⛴ ℹ *Station Approach (01736 362207).* **www**.visit-westcornwall.com

Penzance is a bustling resort with a climate so mild that palm trees and sub-tropical plants grow happily in the lush **Morrab Gardens**. The town commands fine views of St Michael's Mount and a great sweep of clean sandy beach.

The main road through the town is Market Jew Street, at the top of which stands the magnificent domed Market House (1837), fronted by a statue of Sir Humphrey Davy (1778–1829). Davy, who came from Penzance, invented the miner's safety lamp which detected lethal gases.

Chapel Street is lined with curious buildings, none more striking than the flamboyant **Egyptian House** (1835), with its richly painted façade and lotus bud decoration. Just as curious is **Admiral Benbow Inn** (1696) on the same street, which has a pirate perched on the roof looking out to sea. The **Penlee House Gallery and Museum** has pictures by the Newlyn School of artists.

The Egyptian House (1835)

Environs: A short distance south of Penzance, **Newlyn** *(see p276)* is Cornwall's largest fishing port, which has given its name to the local school of artists founded by Stanhope Forbes (1857–1947). They painted outdoors, aiming to capture the fleeting impressions of wind, sun and sea. Continuing south, the coastal road ends at **Mousehole** (pronounced Mowzall), a pretty, popular village with a tiny harbour, tiers of cottages and a maze of narrow alleys.

North of Penzance, overlooking the magical Cornish coast, **Chysauster** is a fine example of a Romano-British village. The site has remained almost undisturbed since it

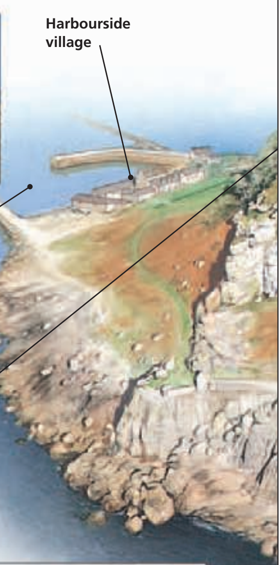
St Michael's Mount ❹

(NT) Marazion, Cornwall. ***Tel*** *01736 710507; tide and ferry information 01736 710265.* ⛴ *from Marazion (Mar–Oct) or on foot at low tide.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Sun–Fri; Nov–Mar: Tue & Fri (tours only – call ahead).* ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.stmichaelsmount.co.uk

St Michael's Mount emerges dramatically from the waters of Mounts Bay. According to ancient Roman historians, the mount was the island of Ictis, an important centre for the Cornish tin trade during the Iron Age. It is dedicated to the archangel St Michael who, according to legend, appeared here in 495.

When the Normans conquered England in 1066 *(see pp46–7)*, they were struck by the island's resemblance to their own Mont-St-Michel, whose Benedictine monks were invited to build a small abbey here. The abbey was absorbed into a fortress at the Dissolution *(see p351)*, when Henry VIII set up a chain of coastal defences to counter an expected attack from France. In 1659 St Michael's Mount was purchased by Colonel John St Aubyn, whose descendants subsequently turned the fortress into a magnificent house.

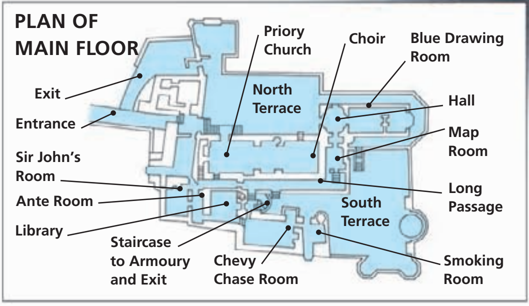
View of St Michael's Mount from Marazion



Harbourside village

Access to the island is by boat from Marazion or on foot by a cobbled causeway at low tide.

The rocky slopes were planted with sub-tropical trees and shrubs by the St Aubyn family.



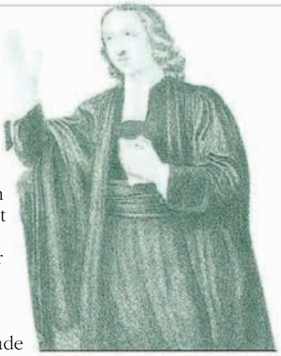
was abandoned during the 3rd century.

From Penzance, regular boat and helicopter services depart for the **Isles of Scilly**, a beautiful archipelago forming part of the same granite mass as Land's End, Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor. Along with tourism, flower-growing forms the main source of income here.

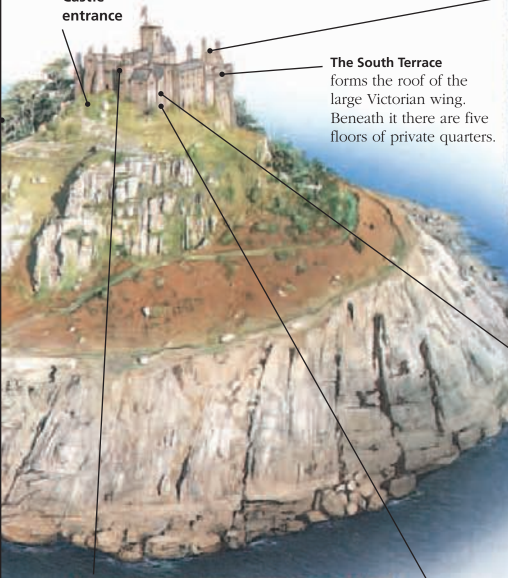
Penlee House Gallery and Museum
Morrab Rd.
Tel *01736 363625.* ○ *May–Sep: 10am–5pm Mon–Sat; Oct–Apr: 10:30am–4:30pm Mon–Sat.*
● *25–26 Dec, 1 Jan.* 🛍 🎟 *but free admission on Sat.* ♿ ☕
www.penleehouse.org.uk

Chysauster
(EH) Off B3311.
Tel *07831 757934.*
○ *Apr–Oct: daily.* 🎟 🛍

THE GROWTH OF METHODISM


John Wesley (1703–91)

The hard-working and independent mining and fishing communities of the West Country had little time for the established church, but they were won over by the new Methodist religion, with its emphasis on hymn singing, open-air preaching and regular or "methodical" Bible reading. When John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, made the first of many visits to the area in 1743, sceptical Cornishmen pelted him with stones. His persistence, however, led to many conversions and by 1762 he was preaching to congregations of up to 30,000 people. Simple places of worship were built throughout the county; one favoured spot was the amphitheatre **Gwennap Pit**, at Busveal, south of Redruth. Methodist memorabilia can be seen in the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro *(see p281)*.



Castle entrance

The South Terrace forms the roof of the large Victorian wing. Beneath it there are five floors of private quarters.

The Blue Drawing Room *was formed from the Lady Chapel in the mid-18th century and is decorated in charming Rococo Gothic style. It contains fine plaster work, furniture and paintings by Gainsborough and Thomas Hudson.*

The Chevy Chase Room *takes its name from a plaster frieze (1641) representing hunting scenes.*

The Armoury displays sporting weapons and military trophies brought back by the St Aubyn family from various wars.

The Priory Church, *rebuilt in the late 14th century, forms the summit of the island. Beautiful rose windows are found at both ends.*

Pinnacles of serpentine rock at Kynance Cove (NT), Lizard Peninsula

Helston and the Lizard Peninsula ❺

Cornwall. 🚌 *from Penzance.*
ℹ *Station Approach, Penzance (01736 362207).*
www.visit-westcornwall.com

The attractive town of Helston makes a good base for exploring the windswept coastline of the Lizard Peninsula. The town is famous for its Furry Dance, which welcomes spring with dancing through the streets *(see p62);* the **Folk Museum** explains the history of this ancient custom. The Georgian houses and inns of Coinagehall Street are a reminder that Helston was once a thriving stannary town where tin ingots were brought for weighing and stamping before being sold. Locally mined tin was brought down river to a harbour at the bottom of this street until access to the sea was blocked in the 13th century by a shingle bar that formed across the estuary. The bar created the freshwater lake, Loe Pool, and an attractive walk skirts its wooded shores. In 1880, Helston's trade was taken over by a new harbour created to the east on the River Helford, at Gweek. Today, Gweek is the home of the **National Seal Sanctuary**, where sick seals are nursed before being returned to the sea.

Cornwall's tin mining industry, from Roman to recent times, is covered at the **Poldark Mine** where underground tours show the working conditions of 18th-century miners. Another major attraction is **Flambards Experience**, with its recreation of a Victorian village and of Britain during the Blitz.

Further south, huge satellite dishes rise from the heathland. The **Goonhilly Earth Station** visitors' centre here explores the world of satellite communications.

Local shops sell souvenirs carved from serpentine, a soft greenish stone which forms the unusual-shaped rocks that rise from the sandy beach at picturesque **Kynance Cove**.

🏛 Folk Museum
Market Place, Helston. ***Tel*** *01326 564027.* ○ *Mon–Sat (am only).* ● *Christmas week.* ✋ ♿ 🛍
www.cornwall.gov.uk

National Seal Sanctuary
Gweek. ***Tel*** *01326 221361.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* ✋ ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.cornwall.gov.uk

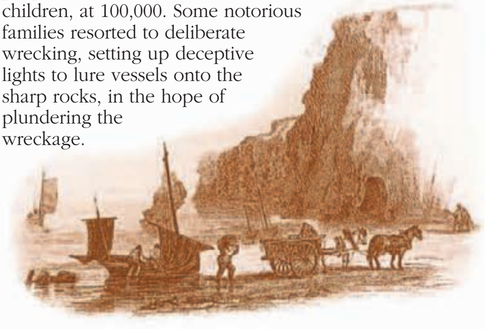
🏛 Poldark Mine
Wendron. ***Tel*** *01326 573173.* ○ *2 wks at Easter, Jul & Aug: daily; Apr–Jun, Sep & Oct: Sun–Fri; Nov–Mar: tours only, by appt.* ✋ ☕ 🛍
www.poldark-mine.co.uk

🏛 Flambards Experience
Culdrose Manor, Helston. ***Tel*** *0845 6018684.* ○ *Easter–Oct: daily; Nov–Mar: call to check.* ✋ ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.flambards.co.uk

🏛 Goonhilly Earth Station
Nr Helston, off B3293. ***Tel*** *0800 679 593.* ○ *daily.* ✋ ♿ ✋ ☕ 🛍 **www**.goonhilly.bt.com

CORNISH SMUGGLERS

In the days before income tax was invented, the main form of government income came from tax on imported luxury goods, such as brandy and perfume. Huge profits were to be made by evading these taxes, which were at their height during the Napoleonic Wars (1780–1815). Remote Cornwall, with its coves and rivers penetrating deep into the mainland, was prime smuggling territory; estimates put the number of people involved, including women and children, at 100,000. Some notorious families resorted to deliberate wrecking, setting up deceptive lights to lure vessels onto the sharp rocks, in the hope of plundering the wreckage.



Falmouth ❻

Cornwall. 👥 *22,000.* 🚆 🚌 ⛴ ℹ *11 Market Strand (01326 312300).*
www.discoverfalmouth.co.uk

Falmouth stands at the point where seven rivers flow into a long stretch of water called the **Carrick Roads**. The drowned river valley is so deep that huge ocean-going ships can sail up almost as far as Truro. Numerous creeks are ideal for boating excursions to view the varied scenery and birdlife.

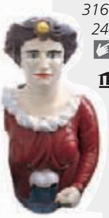
Falmouth has the third largest naturally deep harbour after Sydney and Rio de Janeiro, and it forms the most interesting part of this seaside resort. On the

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp574–578 and pp626–630

harbour waterfront stands the **National Maritime Museum Cornwall**, part of a large waterside complex, which includes cafés, shops and restaurants. The museum is dedicated to the great maritime tradition of Cornwall and contains Britain's finest public collection of historic and contemporary small craft. Exhibits look at maritime themes and the story of those whose lives depended on the sea.

The many old houses on the harbour include the **Customs House** and the chimney alongside, known as the "King's Pipe" because it was used for burning contraband tobacco seized from smugglers in the 19th century. **Pendennis Castle** and St Mawes Castle opposite, were built by King Henry VIII.

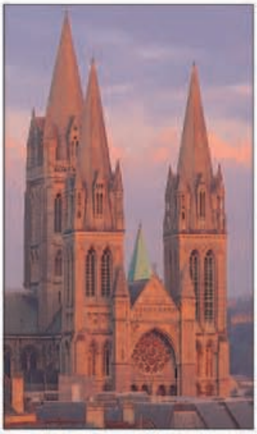
Towards the town centre is the **Falmouth Art Gallery**, with one of Cornwall's most important art collections.



Ship's figurehead, Falmouth

Environs: To the south, **Glendurgan** *(see p244)* and **Trebah** gardens are both set in sheltered valleys leading down to delightful sandy coves on the Helford River.

🏛 National Maritime Museum Cornwall
Discovery Quay, Falmouth.
Tel *01326 313388.* ○ *daily.*
● *25, 26 Dec.* ⊘ ♿ ☕ 🛍



Truro Cathedral, designed by J L Pearson and completed in 1910

Pendennis Castle
(EH) The Headland. **Tel** *01326 316594.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ⊘ ♿ *limited.* ☝ ☕ 🛍

🏛 Falmouth Art Gallery
The Moor, Falmouth.
Tel *01326 313863.*
○ *Mon–Sat.*

Glendurgan
(NT) Mawnan Smith.
Tel *01326 250906.*
○ *mid-Feb–mid-Nov: Tue–Sat & pub hols (Aug: Mon–Sat).* ● *Good Fri.* ⊘ ☕ 🛍

Trebah
Mawnan Smith. **Tel** *01326 252200.* ○ *daily.* 🛍 ⊘ ♿ ☕
www.trebah-garden.co.uk

Truro ⑦

Cornwall. 👥 *19,000.* 🚂 🚌
ℹ *Boscawen St (01872 274555).*
🛒 *Wed (cattle), Wed & Sat (farmers' market).* **www**.discovertruro.gov.uk

Once a market town and port, Truro is now the administrative capital of Cornwall. Truro's many gracious Georgian buildings reflect its prosperity during the tin mining boom of the 1800s. In 1876 the 16th-century parish church was rebuilt to create the first new **cathedral** to be built in England since Wren built St Paul's *(see pp114–15)* in the 17th century. With its central tower, lancet windows and spires, the cathedral is an exuberant building that looks more French than English.

Truro's cobbled streets and alleys lined with craft shops are also a delight to explore. The **Royal Cornwall Museum** provides an excellent introduction to the history of the county with displays on tin mining, Methodism *(see p279)* and smuggling.

Environs: On the outskirts of the city lie **Trewithen** and **Trelissick** gardens *(see p244)*. The former has a rich collection of Asiatic plants.

🏛 Royal Cornwall Museum
River St. **Tel** *01872 272205.* ○ *Mon–Sat.* ● *public hols.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk

Trewithen
Grampound Rd. **Tel** *01726 883647.*
○ *Mar–May: daily; Jun–Sep: Mon–Sat.* ⊘ ♿ ☝ *by arrangement.* ☕
🛍 **www**.trewithengardens.co.uk

Trelissick
(NT) Feock. **Tel** *01872 862090.*
○ *Mar–May: daily; Jun–Sep: Mon–Sat.* ⊘ ♿ 🍴 🛍

The "Cornish Alps": china-clay spoil tips north of St Austell

St Austell ⑧

Cornwall. 👥 *20,000.* 🚂 🚌
ℹ *Jet Service Station, Southbourne Rd (0845 094 0428).* 🛒 *Sat–Sun.*
www.visitthecornishriviera.co.uk

The busy industrial town of St Austell is the capital of the local china-clay industry which rose to importance in the 18th century. Clay is still a vital factor here; until recently, China was the only other place where such quality and quantity of clay could be found. Spoil tips are a prominent feature; on a sunny day they look like snow-covered peaks, meriting the local name the "Cornish Alps".

Environs: The famous **Lost Gardens of Heligan** are an amazing restoration project to recreate the extraordinary gardens created by the Tremayne family from the 16th century to World War I. At the **Wheal Martyn China Clay Museum**, nature trails weave through clay works that operated from 1878 until the 1920s.

Lost Gardens of Heligan
Pentewan. **Tel** *01726 845100.*
○ *daily.* ● *24 & 25 Dec.* ⊘ ♿
🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.heligan.com

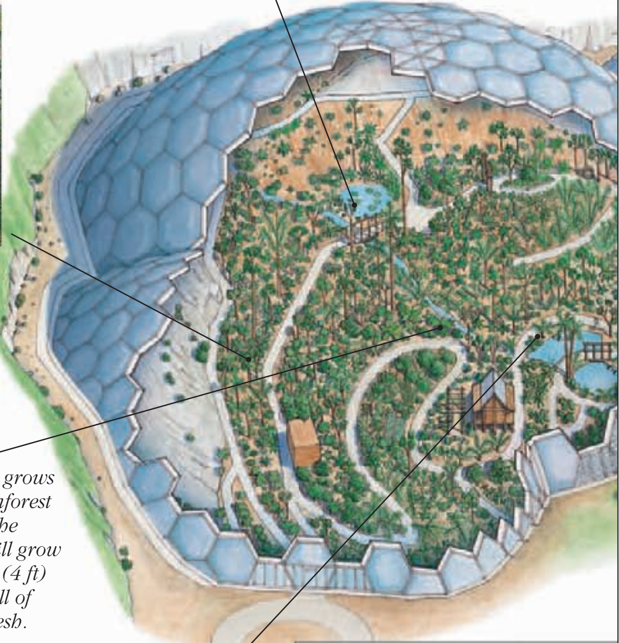
🏛 Wheal Martyn China Clay Museum
Carthew. **Tel** *01726 850362.*
○ *Feb–Sep: daily.* ⊘ ♿ *limited.*
☕ 🛍 **www**.wheal-martyn.com

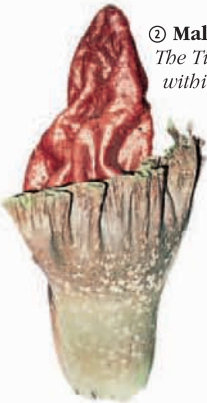
Eden Project ❾

Built in a china clay pit that had reached the end of its useful life, the Eden Project is a global garden for the 21st century, and a dramatic setting in which to tell the fascinating story of mankind's dependence on plants. Two futuristic conservatories called Biomes have been designed to mimic the environments of warmer climes: one hot and humid, the other warm and dry. The outer Biome is planted with species that thrive in the Cornish climate. The Eden Project seeks to educate by telling the story of plants, people and places. The relationship between humans and nature is interpreted by artists throughout the site. An impressive education centre, the Core, was opened in 2006 and is used for exhibitions, films and workshops.

④ **Tropical South America**
Some plants in this area reach enormous proportions. The leaves of the giant waterlily can be up to 2 m (6 ft) across.

③ **West Africa**
Iboga is central to the African religion Bwiti. Highly hallucinogenic, it is an integral part of initiation ceremonies.





② **Malaysia**
The Titan arum grows within this rainforest display. The flower will grow to 1.5 m (4 ft) and smell of rotting flesh.

① **Tropical Islands**
Set apart from the rest of the world, these islands have many fascinating plants. The rare Madagascar Periwinkle (Catharanthus roseus) *is thought to help cure leukemia.*

THE SITE

Access to the outdoor and the covered Biomes is via the Visitor Centre.

Rainforest Biome
① Tropical Islands
② Malaysia
③ West Africa
④ Tropical South America
⑤ Crops & cultivation
Mediterranean Biome
⑥ The Mediterranean
⑦ South Africa
⑧ California
⑨ Crops & cultivation

Building Eden

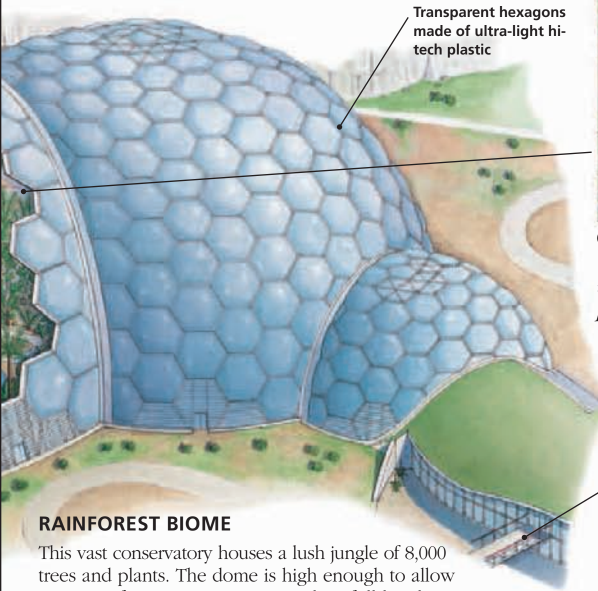
Cornwall's declining china clay industry has left behind many disused pits. The Eden Project makes ingenious use of this industrial landscape. After partly infilling a pit, the massive Biomes were nestled into its base and walls.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Bodelva, St Austell, Cornwall. ***Tel*** *01726 811911.* 🚆 *St Austell.* 🚌 *dedicated bus service from St Austell.* ◯ *Apr–Oct: 10am–6pm daily (last adm 5pm); Nov–Mar: 10am–4:30pm daily (last adm 3pm).* ● *24, 25 Dec.* 💳 ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 *For events details see* **www**.edenproject.com

⑤ **Crops and cultivation**

The coffee plant (Coffea arabica) *is one of the many plants on display that are used in our everyday lives.*



Transparent hexagons made of ultra-light hi-tech plastic

The entrance to both the Rainforest and Mediterranean Biomes is via the Link, where two restaurants are located.

RAINFOREST BIOME

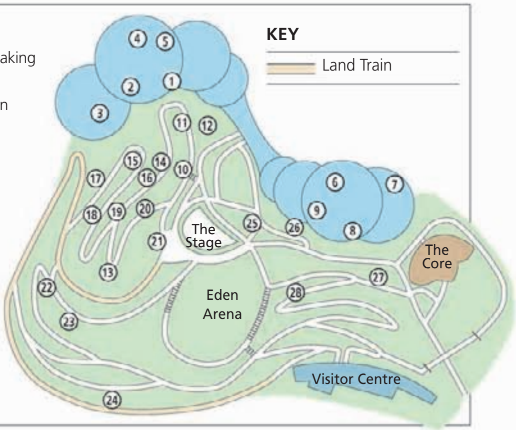
This vast conservatory houses a lush jungle of 8,000 trees and plants. The dome is high enough to allow some rainforest trees to grow to their full height.

Outdoor Biome

- ⑩ Pollination
- ⑪ Cornish crops
- ⑫ Plants for taste
- ⑬ Global gardeners
- ⑭ Beer & brewing
- ⑮ Rope & fibre
- ⑯ Hemp
- ⑰ Steppe & Prairie
- ⑱ Eco-engineering
- ⑲ Tea
- ⑳ Lavender
- ㉑ Mechanical theatre
- ㉒ Fuel
- ㉓ Myth & folkore
- ㉔ Biodiversity & Cornwall
- ㉕ Play
- ㉖ Flowers in the making
- ㉗ Health
- ㉘ Flowerless garden

0 metres 150

0 yards 150



View of Polruan across the estuary from Fowey

Fowey ⑩

Cornwall. 2,000.
ℹ *5 South St (01726 833616).*
www.fowey.co.uk

Fowey (pronounced Foy), has been immortalized under the name of Troy Town in the humorous novels of Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (1863–1944), who lived here in a house called **The Haven**. A resort favoured by many wealthy Londoners with a taste for yachting and expensive seafood restaurants, Fowey is the most gentrified of the Cornish seaside towns. The picturesque charm of the flower-filled village is undeniable, with its tangle of tiny steep streets and its views across the estuary to Polruan. The church of **St Fimbarrus** marks the end of the ancient Saint's Way footpath from Padstow – a reminder of the Celtic missionaries who arrived on the shores of Cornwall to convert people to Christianity. Its flower-lined path leads to a majestic porch and carved tower. Inside there are some fine 17th-century memorials to the Rashleigh family whose seat, Menabilly, became Daphne du Maurier's home and featured as Manderley in *Rebecca* (1938).

Environs: For a closer look at the town of **Polruan** and the ceaseless activity of the harbour there is a number of river trips up the little creeks. At the estuary mouth are the twin towers from which chains were once hung to demast invading ships – an effective form of defence.

A fine stretch of coast leads further east to the picturesque fishing villages of **Polperro**, nestling in a narrow green ravine, and neighbouring **Looe**.

Upriver from Fowey is the tranquil town of **Lostwithiel**. Perched on a hill just to the north are the remains of the Norman **Restormel Castle**.

Restormel Castle
(EH) Lostwithiel. ***Tel*** *01208 872687.*
Apr–Oct: daily.

DAPHNE DU MAURIER

The period romances of Daphne du Maurier (1907–89) are inextricably linked with the wild Cornish landscape where she grew up. *Jamaica Inn* established her reputation in 1936, and with the publication of *Rebecca* two years later she found herself one of the most popular authors of her day. *Rebecca* was made into a film directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Joan Fontaine and Lord Laurence Olivier.

Bodmin ⑪

Cornwall. *Bodmin Parkway. Bodmin.* ℹ *Mount Folly Sq, Bodmin (01208 76616).* **www**.bodminlive.com

Bodmin, Cornwall's ancient county town, lies on the sheltered western edge of the great expanse of moorland that shares its name. The history and archaeology of the town and moor is covered by **Bodmin Town Museum**, while **Bodmin Jail**, where public executions took place until 1909, is a gruesome tourist attraction. The churchyard is watered by the ever-gushing waters of a holy spring, and it was here that St Guron established a Christian cell in the 6th century. The **church** is dedicated to St Petroc, a Welsh missionary who founded a monastery here. The monastery has disappeared, but the bones of St Petroc remain, housed in a splendid 12th-century ivory casket in the church.

JAMAICA INN

Jamaica Inn, Bodmin Moor

For a pleasant day out, ride the **Bodmin & Wenford Railway**, a steam train which departs from Bodmin Station, or take part in a Victorian murder trial at **The Courtroom Experience**, run by the tourist office.

South of Bodmin is the **Lanhydrock** estate. Amid its extensive wooded acres and formal gardens *(see p244)* lies the massive Victorian manor house, rebuilt after a fire in 1881, but retaining some Jacobean features. The fine 17th-century plaster ceiling in the Long Gallery depicts scenes from the Bible.

The desolate wilderness of Bodmin Moor is noted for its network of prehistoric field boundaries. The main attraction, however, is the 18th-century **Jamaica Inn**, made famous by Daphne du Maurier's tale of smuggling and romance. Today there is a restaurant and bar based on du Maurier's novel, and a small museum. A 30-minute walk from the Inn is **Dozmary Pool**, reputed to be bottomless until it dried up in 1976.

The ruins of Tintagel Castle on the north coast of Cornwall

According to legend, the dying King Arthur's sword Excalibur was thrown into the pool.

To the east is **Altarnun**. Its spacious 15th-century church of **St Nonna** is known as the "Cathedral of the Moor".

🏛 Bodmin Town Museum
Mt Folly Sq, Bodmin. ***Tel*** *01208 77067.* ○ *Easter–Oct: Mon–Sat, Good Fri.* ● *pub hols.* ♿ *ltd.* 🛍

🏠 Bodmin Jail
Berrycombe Rd, Bodmin. ***Tel*** *01208 76292.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🛍 ☞ 🍴 ☕ **www**.bodminjail.org

🏠 Lanhydrock
(NT) Bodmin. ***Tel*** *01208 265950.* **House** ○ *Apr–Oct: Tue–Sun & public hols.* **Gardens** ○ *daily.* 🛍 ☞ ♿ 🍴

Tintagel ⑫

Cornwall. 👥 *1,700.* ℹ *Bossiney Rd (01840 779084).* ⊖ *Thu (summer).* **www**.visitboscastleandtintagel.com

The romantic and mysterious ruins of **Tintagel Castle**, built around 1240 by Earl Richard of Cornwall, sit high on a hill-top surrounded by slate cliffs. Access to the castle is via two steep staircases clinging to the cliffside where pink thrift and purple sea lavender abound.

The earl was persuaded to build in this isolated, windswept spot by the popular belief, derived from Geoffrey of Monmouth's fictitious *History of the Kings of Britain,* that this was the birthplace of the legendary King Arthur.

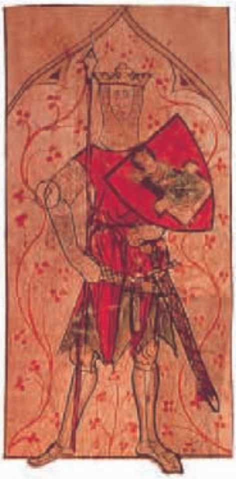
Large quantities of fine eastern Mediterranean pottery dating from around the 5th century have been discovered, indicating that the site was an important trading centre, long before the medieval castle was built. Whoever lived here, perhaps the ancient Kings of Cornwall, could evidently afford a luxurious lifestyle.

A clifftop path leads from the castle to Tintagel's **church**, which has Norman and Saxon masonry. In Tintagel village the **Old Post Office** is a rare example of a 14th-century restored and furnished Cornish manor house.

Environs: A short distance to the east, **Boscastle** is a pretty National Trust village. The River Valency runs down the middle of the main street to the fishing harbour, which is sheltered from the sea by high slate cliffs. Access from the harbour to the sea is via a channel cut through the rocks.

⛫ Tintagel Castle
(EH) Off High St. ***Tel*** *01840 770328.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ☞ **www**.english-heritage.org.uk/tintagel

🏠 Old Post Office
(NT) Fore St. ***Tel*** *01840 770024.* ○ *Mar–Oct: daily.* 🛍 ☞


King Arthur, from a 14th-century chronicle by Peter of Langtoft

KING ARTHUR

Historians think the legendary figure of King Arthur has some basis in historical fact. He was probably a Romano-British chieftain or warrior who led British resistance to the Saxon invasion of the 6th century *(see pp46–7).* Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain* (1139) introduced Arthur to literature with an account of the many legends connected with him – how he became king by removing the sword Excalibur from a stone, his final battle with the treacherous Mordred, and the story of the Knights of the Round Table *(see p170).* Other writers, such as Alfred, Lord Tennyson, took up these stories and elaborated on them.

Bude ⑬

Cornwall. 👥 *9,000.* ℹ *Crescent car park (01288 354240).* ⊖ *Fri (summer).* **www**.visitbude.info

Wonderful beaches around this area make Bude a popular resort for families. The expanse of clean golden sand that attracts visitors today once made Bude a bustling port. Shelly, lime-rich sand was transported along a canal to inland farms where it was used to neutralize the acidic soil. The canal was abandoned in 1880 but a short stretch survives, providing a haven for birds such as kingfishers and herons.

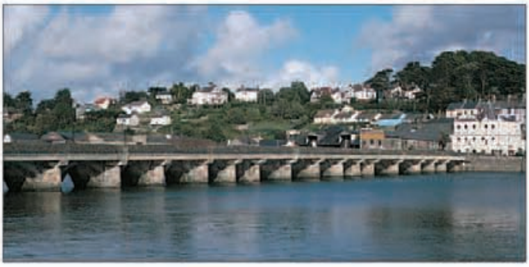
Kingfisher

Clovelly ⓮

Devon. 👥 *350.* ***Tel*** *01237 431781.* **Town & Visitors' Centre** ○ *daily.* ● *25 & 26 Dec.* 🎟 ♿ *Visitors' Centre.* **www**.clovelly.co.uk

Clovelly has been a noted beauty spot since the novelist Charles Kingsley (1819–75) wrote about it in his stirring story of the Spanish Armada, *Westward Ho!* (1855). The whole village is privately owned and has been turned into a tourist attraction, with little sign of the flourishing fishing industry to which it owed its birth. It is a charming village with steep, traffic-free cobbled streets rising up the cliff from the harbourside, white-washed houses and gardens brimming with brightly coloured flowers. There are superb views from the lookout points and fine coastal paths to explore from the tiny quay.

Hobby Drive is a scenic 3-mile (5-km) approach on foot to the village which runs through woodland along the coast. The road was constructed in 1811–29 to give employment to local men who had been made redundant at the end of the Napoleonic Wars *(see pp54–5).*



Bideford's medieval bridge, 203 m (666 ft) long with 24 arches

Bideford ⓯

Devon. 👥 *14,000.* 🚌 ℹ *Burton Art Gallery, Kingsley Rd (01237 477676).* ⛺ *Tue, Sat.*

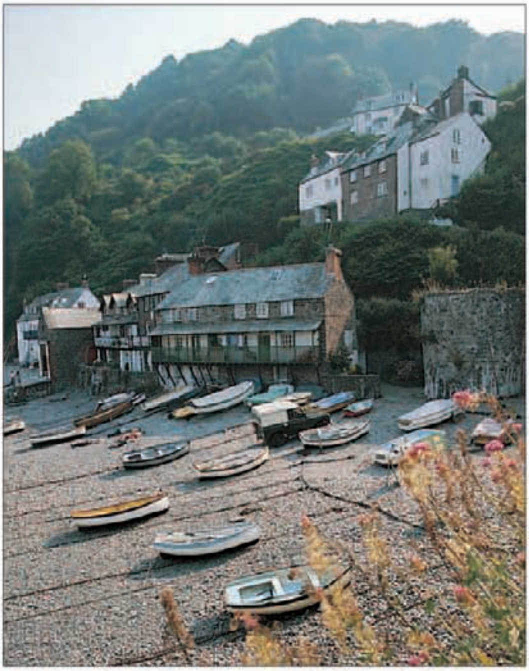
Strung out along the estuary of the River Torridge, Bideford grew and thrived on importing tobacco from the New World. Some 17th-century merchants' houses survive in Bridgeland Street, including the splendid bay-windowed house at No. 28 (1693). Beyond is Mill Street, leading to the parish church and the fine medieval bridge. The quay stretches from here to a pleasant park and a statue that commemorates Charles Kingsley, whose novels helped bring visitors to the area in the 19th century.

Environs: To the west of Bideford, the village **Westward Ho!** was built in the late 19th century and named after Kingsley's popular novel. The development failed, and the Victorian villas and hotels are now part of a holiday resort. Rudyard Kipling *(see p163)* was at school here and the hill to the south, known as **Kipling Tors**, was the background for *Stalky & Co* (1899).

Also to the west is **Hartland Abbey**, built as a monastery c.1157, now a family home. The BBC filmed parts of *Sense and Sensibility* here. Visitors can enjoy a museum, art and antiques, as well as gardens.

Henry Williamson's *Tarka the Otter* (1927) describes the otters of the **Torridge Valley** and naturalists are hoping to reintroduce otters here. Part of a Tarka Trail has been laid out along the Torridge and bicycles can be hired from the old railway station. The trail passes close to the magnificent **Rosemoor Garden**.

Day trips run from either Bideford or Ilfracombe (depending on the tide) to **Lundy** island, which is abundant in birds and wildlife.



Fishing boats in Clovelly's harbour

RHS Rosemoor Garden
Great Torrington. ***Tel*** *01805 624067.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🎟 ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.rhs.org.uk

Hartland Abbey
nr. Bideford. ***Tel*** *01237 441264.* ○ *Apr–May: Wed, Thu, Sun; Jun–Sep: Sun–Thu.* 🎟 ☕ 🛍 ♿ *limited.* **www**.hartlandabbey.com

Fishermen's cottages, Appledore

Appledore ⑯

Devon. 👥 *3,000.* ℹ *Bideford (01237 477676).*

Appledore's remote position at the tip of the Torridge Estuary has helped to preserve its charms intact. Busy boatyards line the long riverside quay, which is also the departure point for fishing trips and ferries to the sandy beaches of Braunton Burrows on the opposite shore. Timeworn Regency houses line the main street which runs parallel to the quay, and behind is a network of narrow cobbled lanes with 18th-century fishermen's cottages. Several shops retain their original bow-windows and sell an assortment of crafts, antiques and souvenirs.

Uphill from the quay is the **North Devon Maritime Museum**, with an exhibition on the experiences of Devon emigrants in Australia and displays explaining the work of local shipyards. The tiny **Victorian Schoolroom** which is affiliated to the museum, shows various documentary videos on local trades such as fishing and shipbuilding.

🏛 **North Devon Maritime Museum**
Odun Rd. ***Tel*** *01237 474852.* ○ *May–Sep: daily; Apr, Oct: pm.* ♿ *ltd.* 🛍 **www**.devonmuseums.net

Barnstaple ⑰

Devon. 👥 *33,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *The Square (01271 375000).* ⛀ *Mon–Sat (Apr–Nov only).*

Although Barnstaple is an important distribution centre for the whole region, its town centre remains calm due to the exclusion of traffic. The massive glass-roofed **Pannier Market** (1855) has stalls of organic fruit and vegetables, honey and eggs, much of it produced by farmers' wives to supplement their income. Nearby is **St Peter's Church** with its twisted broach spire, said to have been caused by a lightning strike which warped the timbers in 1810.

Statue of Queen Anne (1708)

On the Strand is a wonderful arcade topped with a statue of Queen Anne, now the **Heritage Centre**. This was built as an exchange where merchants traded the contents of their cargo boats moored on the River Taw alongside. Nearby is the 15th-century bridge and the **Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon**, where displays cover local history and the 700-year-old pottery industry, as well as local wildlife, such as the otters. The 180-mile (290 km) Tarka Trail circuits around Barnstaple; 35 miles (56 km) of it can be cycled.

Barnstaple's Pannier Market

Environs: Just west of Barnstaple, **Braunton "Great Field"** covers over 120 ha (300 acres) and is a well-preserved relic of medieval open-field cultivation. Beyond lies **Braunton Burrows**, one of the most extensive wild-dune reserves in Britain. It is a must for plant enthusiasts who would like to spot sea kale, sea holly, sea lavender and horned poppies growing in their natural habitat. The sandy beaches and pounding waves at nearby Croyde and Woolacombe, are favourites among surfing enthusiasts, but there are also calmer areas of warm shallow water and rock pools.

DEVONSHIRE CREAM TEAS

Devon people claim all other versions of a cream tea are inferior to their own. The essential ingredient is Devonshire clotted cream which comes from Jersey cattle fed on rich Devon pasture – anything else is second best, or so it is claimed. Spread thickly on freshly baked scones, with lashings of homemade strawberry jam, this makes a seductive, delicious, but fattening, tea-time treat.

A typical cream tea with scones, jam and clotted cream

Arlington Court, north of Barnstaple, has a collection of model ships, magnificent perennial borders and a lake. The stables house a collection of horse-drawn vehicles, and rides are available in summer.

🏛 **Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon**
The Square. ***Tel*** *01271 346747.* ○ *Mon–Sat.* ● *24 Dec–1 Jan.* ♿ *ltd.* 🛍 **www**.devonmuseums.net

🏛 **Arlington Court**
(NT) Arlington. ***Tel*** *01271 850296.* ○ *Easter–Oct: Sun–Fri.* ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍

The village of Lynmouth

Lynton and Lynmouth ⑱

Devon. 👥 *2,000.* 🚌 ℹ *Town Hall, Lee Rd, Lynton (0845 660 3232).*
www.lynton-lynmouth-tourism.co.uk

Situated at the point where the East and West Lyn rivers meet the sea, Lynmouth is a picturesque, though rather commercialized, fishing village. The pedestrianized main street, lined with shops selling seaside souvenirs, runs parallel to the Lyn, now a canal with high embankments to protect against flash floods. One flood devastated the town at the height of the holiday season in 1952. The scars caused by the flood, which was fuelled by heavy rain on Exmoor, are now overgrown by trees in the pretty **Glen Lyn Gorge**, which leads north out of the village. Lynmouth's sister town, Lynton, is a mainly Victorian village perched on the clifftop 130 m (427 ft) above, giving lovely views across the Bristol Channel to the Welsh coast. It can be reached from the harbour front by a cliff railway (open March to October), by road or by a steep path.

Environs: Lynmouth makes an excellent starting point for walks on Exmoor. There is a 2 mile (3 km) trail that leads southeast to tranquil **Watersmeet** *(see p251)*. On the western edge of Exmoor, **Combe Martin** *(see p250)* lies in a sheltered valley. On the main street, lined with Victorian villas, is the 18th-century Pack of Cards Inn, built by a gambler with 52 windows, for each card in the pack.

Exeter ⑲

Exeter is Devon's capital, a bustling and lively city with a great deal of character, despite the World War II bombing that destroyed much of its city centre. Built high on a plateau above the River Exe, the city is encircled by substantial sections of Roman and medieval wall, and the street plan has not changed much since the Romans first laid out what is now the High Street. Elsewhere the Cathedral Close forms a pleasant green, and there are cobbled streets and narrow alleys which invite leisurely exploration. For shoppers there is a wide selection of big stores and smaller speciality shops.

Exploring Exeter

The intimate green and the close surrounding Exeter's distinctive cathedral were the setting for Anthony Trollope's novel *He Knew He Was Right* (1869). Full of festive crowds listening to buskers in the summer, the close presents an array of architectural styles. One of the finest buildings here is the Elizabethan **Mol's Coffee House**. Among the other historic buildings that survived World War II are the magnificent **Guildhall** (1330) on the High Street (one of Britain's oldest civic buildings), the opulent **Custom House** (1681) by the quay, and the elegant 18th-century **Rougement House** which stands near the remains of a Norman **castle** built by William the Conqueror *(see pp46–7)*.

The port area has been transformed into a tourist attraction with its early 19th-century warehouses converted into craft shops, antique galleries and cafés. Boats can be hired for cruising down the short stretch of canal. The **Quay House Interpretation Centre** (open daily April–October; weekends November–March) has audio-visual and other displays on the history of Exeter.

The timber-framed Mol's Coffee House (1596), Cathedral Close

West front and south tower, Cathedral Church of St Peter

⛪ Cathedral Church of St Peter

Cathedral Close. ***Tel*** *01392 255573.*
○ *daily.* 🛍 ♿ 🍴

Exeter's cathedral is one of the most gloriously ornamented in Britain. Except for the two Norman towers, the cathedral is mainly 14th century and built in the style aptly known as Decorated because of the swirling geometric patterns of the stone work. The West Front, the largest single collection (66) of medieval figure sculptures in England, includes kings, apostles and prophets. Started in the 14th century, it was completed by 1450. Inside, the splendid Gothic vaulting sweeps from one end of the church to the other, impressive in its uniformity and punctuated by gaily painted ceiling bosses.

Among the tombs around the choir is that of Edward II's treasurer, Walter de Stapledon (1261–1326), who was murdered by a mob in London. Stapledon raised much of the money needed to fund the building of this cathedral.

Collection of shells and other objects in the library of A La Ronde

⛪ Underground Passages

Paris St. ***Tel*** *01392 665 887.* ○ *Jun–Sep: daily; Oct–May: Tue–Sun.* 🛍 📷

Under the city centre lie the remains of Exeter's medieval water-supply system. An excellent video and guided tour explain how the stone-lined tunnels were built in the 14th and 15th centuries on a slight gradient in order to bring in fresh water for townspeople from springs outside the town. The site was refurbished in 2007 and includes the Heritage Centre.

⛪ St Nicholas Priory

The Mint. ***Tel*** *01392 665858.* ● *for conservation work – phone for details*

Built in the 12th century, this building has retained many of its original features and rooms. These help visitors to trace its fascinating history from austere monastic beginnings, through its secular use as a Tudor residence for wealthy merchants, to its 20th-century incarnation as five separate business premises occupied by various tradesmen including a bootmaker and an upholsterer.

🏛 Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery

Queen St. ***Tel*** *01392 665858.* ○ *call for details.* ● *for refurbishment until 2011.* 🛍 ♿ ☕

This museum has a wonderfully varied collection, including Roman remains, a zoo of stuffed animals, West Country art and a particularly good ethnographic display. Highlights include displays on silverware, watches and clocks.

19th-century head of an Oba, Royal Albert Museum

Environs: South of Exeter on the A376, the eccentric **A La Ronde** is a 16-sided house built in 1796 by two spinster cousins, who decorated the interior with shells, feathers and souvenirs gathered while on tour in Europe.

Further east, the unspoilt Regency town of **Sidmouth** lies in a sheltered bay. There is an eclectic array of architecture, the earliest buildings dating from the 1820s when Sidmouth became a popular summer resort. Thatched cottages stand opposite huge Edwardian villas, and elegant terraces line the seafront. In summer the town hosts the famous International Festival of Folk Arts *(see p63)*.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Devon. 👥 *111,000.* ✈ *5 miles (8 km) east.* ⇌ *Exeter St David's, Bonhay Rd; Exeter Central, Queen St.* 🚌 *Paris St.* ℹ *Dix's Field (01392 665700).* **www**. exeterandessentialdevon.com

North of Sidmouth lies the magnificent church at **Ottery St Mary**. Built in 1338–42 by Bishop Grandisson, the church is clearly a scaled-down version of Exeter Cathedral, which he also helped build. In the churchyard wall is a memorial to the poet Coleridge who was born in the town in 1772.

Nearby **Honiton** is famous for its extraordinarily intricate and delicate lace, made here since Elizabethan times.

To the north of Exeter, **Killerton** is home to the National Trust's costume collection. Here, displays of bustles and corsets and vivid tableaux illustrate aristocratic fashions from the 18th century to the present day.

Further north near Tiverton, is **Knightshayes Court**, a Victorian Gothic mansion with fine gardens *(see p245)*.

🏠 A La Ronde

(NT) Summer Lane, Exmouth. ***Tel*** *01395 265514.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Sat–Wed.* 📷 ☕ 🛍

🏠 Killerton

(NT) Broadclyst. ***Tel*** *01392 881345.* **House** ○ *Mar–Sep: Wed–Mon; Aug & Christmas: daily; Oct: Wed–Sun.* **Garden** ○ *daily.* 📷 ♿ ☕ 🛍

🌳 Knightshayes Court

(NT) Bolham. ***Tel*** *01884 254665.* ○ *mid-Feb–Oct: Sat–Thu, Good Fri.* **Gardens** ○ *Apr–Nov: daily.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🍴 🛍

Mexican dancer at Sidmouth's International Festival of Folk Arts

Torbay ⑳

Torbay. 🚆 🚌 *Torquay, Paignton.* ℹ *Vaughan Parade, Torquay (01803 211211).* **www**.englishriviera.co.uk

The seaside towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham form an almost continuous resort around the great sweep of sandy beach and blue waters of Torbay. Because of its mild climate, semi-tropical gardens and exuberant Victorian hotel architecture, this popular coastline has been dubbed the English Riviera. In the Victorian era Torbay was patronized by the wealthy. Today, the theme is mass entertainment, and there are plenty of attractions, mostly in and around Torquay.

Torre Abbey includes the remains of a monastery founded in 1196. It is currently undergoing a massive restoration programme, the first phase of which focused on the abbey's oldest part. Future phases will redevelop the abbey's galleries and restore the historic gardens. **Torquay Museum** nearby covers natural history and archaeology, including finds from **Kents Cavern**, on the outskirts of the town. This is one of England's most important prehistoric sites, and the spectacular caves include displays on people and animals who lived here up to 350,000 years ago.

The charming miniature town of **Babbacombe Model Village** is north of Torquay, while a mile (1.5 km) inland is the lovely village of **Cockington**. Visitors travel by horse-drawn carriage to the preserved Tudor manor house, church and thatched cottages.

In Paignton, the celebrated **Paignton Zoo** teaches children about the planet's wildlife, and from here you can take the steam railway – an ideal way to visit Dartmouth.

Continuing south from Paignton, the pretty town of Brixham was once England's most prosperous fishing port.

Torre Abbey
King's Drive, Torquay. ***Tel*** *01803 293593.* ○ *daily.* 🎟 ☞ ♿ ☕ 🛍

Torquay, on the "English Riviera"

Bayards Cove, Dartmouth

Torquay Museum
Babbacombe Rd, Torquay. ***Tel*** *01803 293975.* ○ *daily (Nov–Easter: Mon–Sat).* ● *Christmas wk.* 🎟 ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.torquaymuseum.org

Kents Cavern
Ilsham Rd, Torquay. ☎ *01803 215 136.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 & 26 Dec.* 🎟 ☞ 🍴 ☕ **www**.kents-cavern.co.uk

Babbacombe Model Village
Hampton Ave, Torquay. ***Tel*** *01803 315315.* ○ *daily.* 🎟 ♿ ☕

Paignton Zoo
Totnes Rd, Paignton. ☎ *01803 697 500.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🎟 ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.paigntonzoo.org.uk

Dartmouth ㉑

Devon. 👥 *5,500.* ⛴ ℹ *Mayors Ave (01803 834224).* 🛒 *Tue–Fri am.* **www**.discoverdartmouth.com

Sitting high on the hill above the River Dart is the **Royal Naval College**, where British naval officers have trained since 1905. Dartmouth has always been an important port and it was from here that English fleets set sail to join the Second and Third Crusades. Some 18th-century houses adorn the cobbled quay of Bayards Cove, while carved timber buildings line the 17th-century Butterwalk, home to **Dartmouth Museum**. To the south is **Dartmouth Castle** (1388).

Dartmouth Museum
Butterwalk. ***Tel*** *01803 832923.* ○ *Mon–Sat.* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* 🎟 🛍 **www**.devonmuseums.net

Dartmouth Castle
(EH) Castle Rd. ***Tel*** *01803 833588.* ○ *daily (Nov–Easter: Sat & Sun).* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 🎟 🛍

Stained-glass window in Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Buckfast Abbey

Totnes ㉒

Devon. 👥 *7,500.* 🚆 🚌 ⛴
i *Town Mill (01803 863168).*
🛒 *Tue am (May–Sep), Fri, Sat.*
www.totnesinformation.co.uk

Totnes sits at the highest navigable point on the River Dart with a Norman **castle** perched high on the hill above. Linking the two is the steep High Street, lined with bow-windowed Elizabethan houses. Bridging the street is the **Eastgate**, part of the medieval town wall. Life in the town's heyday is explored in the **Totnes Elizabethan Museum**, which also has a room devoted to the mathematician Charles Babbage (1791–1871), who is regarded as the pioneer of modern computers. There is a **Guildhall**, and a **church** with a delicately carved and gilded rood screen. On Tuesdays in the summer, market stallholders dress in Elizabethan costume.

Environs: A few miles north of Totnes, **Dartington Hall** has 10 ha (25 acres) of lovely gardens and a famous music school where concerts are held in the timbered 14th-century Great Hall.

Stallholders in Totnes market

Totnes Castle
(EH) Castle St. ***Tel*** *01803 864406.*
○ *Apr–Oct: daily.* 📷

Totnes Elizabethan Museum
Fore St. ***Tel*** *01803 863821.* ○
Easter–Oct: Mon–Fri. 📷 ♿ *limited.*

Guildhall
Rampart Walk. ***Tel*** *01803 862147.*
○ *Apr–Oct: Mon–Fri.* 📷

Dartington Hall Gardens
Tel *01803 862367.* ○ *daily.*
www.dartingtonhalltrust.com

Buckfastleigh ㉓

Devon. 👥 *3,300.* 🚆 i *Fore St (01364 644522).*

This market town, situated on the edge of Dartmoor *(see pp294–5)*, is dominated by **Buckfast Abbey**. The original abbey, founded in Norman times, fell into ruin after the Dissolution of the Monasteries and it was not until 1882 that a small group of French Benedictine monks set up a new abbey here. Work on the present building was financed by donations and carried out by the monks. The abbey was completed in 1938 and lies at the heart of a thriving community. The fine mosaics and modern stained-glass window are also the work of the monks.

Nearby is the **Buckfast Butterfly Farm and Otter Sanctuary**, and the **South Devon Steam Railway** terminus where steam trains leave for Totnes.

Buckfast Abbey
Buckfastleigh. ***Tel*** *01364 645500.*
○ *daily.* ● *Good Fri, 25–27 Dec.*
♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.buckfast.org.uk

Buckfast Butterfly Farm and Otter Sanctuary
Buckfastleigh. ***Tel*** *01364 642916.*
○ *Easter–Nov: daily.* 📷 ♿
www.ottersandbutterflies.co.uk

Burgh Island ㉔

Devon. 🚆 *Plymouth, then taxi.* i *The Quay, Kingsbridge (01548 853 195).* **www**.kingsbridgeinfo.co.uk

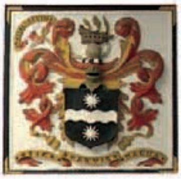
The short walk across the sands at low tide from Bigbury-on-Sea to Burgh Island takes you back to the era of the 1920s and 1930s. It was here that the millionaire Archibald Nettlefold built the luxury **Burgh Island Hotel** *(see p567)* in 1929. Created in Art Deco style with a natural rock sea-bathing pool, this was the exclusive retreat of figures such as the Duke of Windsor and Noel Coward. The restored hotel is worth a visit for the photographs of its heyday and the Art Deco fittings. You can also explore the island and **Pilchard Inn** (1336), reputed to be haunted by the ghost of a smuggler.

The Art Deco style bar in Burgh Island Hotel

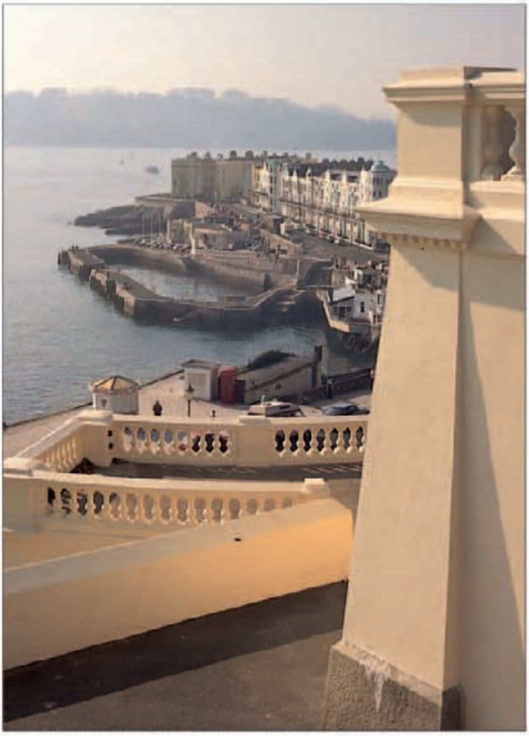
Plymouth ㉕

Plymouth. 👥 *250,000.* ✈ 🚆 🚌 ⛴ ℹ *The Mayflower, The Barbican (01752 306330).* 🛒 *daily.* **www**.plymouth.gov.uk

The tiny port from which Drake, Raleigh, the Pilgrim Fathers, Cook and Darwin all set sail on pioneering voyages has now grown to a substantial city, much of it boldly rebuilt after wartime bombing. Old Plymouth clusters around the **Hoe**, the famous patch of turf on which Sir Francis Drake is said to have calmly finished his game of bowls as the Spanish Armada approached the port in 1588 *(see pp50–51)*. Today the Hoe is a pleasant park and parade ground surrounded by memorials to naval men, including Drake himself. Alongside is Charles II's **Royal Citadel**, built to guard the harbour in the 1660s. On the harbour is the **National Marine Aquarium**. Nearby is the **Mayflower Stone and Steps**, the spot where the Pilgrim Fathers set sail for the New World in England's third and successful attempt at colonization in 1620. The popular **Plymouth Mayflower Exhibition** explores the story of the Mayflower and the creation of the harbour. Interactive graphics are used to tell the tales of merchant families and emigration to the New World.


Drake's coat of arms

Environs: A boat tour of the harbour is the best way to see the dockyards where warships have been built since the Napoleonic Wars. There are also splendid views of various fine gardens, such as **Mount Edgcumbe Park** *(see p244)*, scattered around the coastline. East of the city, the 18th-century **Saltram House** has two rooms by Adam *(see pp28–9)* and portraits by Reynolds, who was born in nearby Plympton.


View of Plymouth Harbour from the Hoe

Mid-18th-century carved wood chimneypiece, Saltram House

Royal Citadel
(EH) The Hoe. ○ *May–Sep: Tue & Thu.* ☞ *only.* 📷 email: plymouth.citadel.tours@googlemail.com

National Marine Aquarium
Rope Walk, Coxside. ***Tel*** *01752 600 301.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 📷 ♿ ☕
www.national-aquarium.co.uk

Plymouth Mayflower Exhibition
3–5 The Barbican. ***Tel*** *01752 306 331.* ○ *daily (Nov–Apr: Mon–Sat).*

Mount Edgcumbe Park
Cremyll, Torpoint. ⛴ *from Torpoint car park.* ***Tel*** *01752 822236.* **House** ○ *Apr–Sep: Sun–Thu.* **Grounds** ○ *all year.* 📷 ☞ ♿ ☕ 🛍 🍴

Saltram House
(NT) Plympton. ***Tel*** *01752 333500.* **Gallery** ○ *Mar–Nov: Sat–Thu; Feb: Sat.* **Gardens** ○ *all year.* 📷 ♿ 🍴 ☕ *open all year.* 🛍

Buckland Abbey ㉖

(NT) Yelverton, Devon. ***Tel*** *01822 853607.* 🚌 *from Yelverton.* ○ *Fri–Wed (Jul–Aug: daily; Nov–Mar: Fri–Sun).* ● *Christmas–mid-Feb.* 📷 ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.nationaltrust.org.uk

Founded by the Cistercian monks in 1278, Buckland Abbey was converted to a house after the Dissolution of the Monasteries and became the home of Drake from 1581–96. Many of the monastic buildings survive in a garden setting, notably the 14th-century tithe barn *(see p28)*. Drake's life is explained through paintings and memorabilia in the house.

Cotehele ㉗

(NT) St Dominick, Cornwall.
Tel *01579 351346.* 🚆 *Calstock.*
House ○ *Apr–Oct: Sat–Thu & Good Fri.* **Grounds** ○ *daily.* 🛍 ✍
♿ *limited.* 🍴 ☕

Magnificent woodland and lush river scenery make Cotehele (pronounced Coteal) one of the most delightful spots on the River Tamar and a rewarding day can be spent exploring the estate. Far from civilization, tucked into its wooded fold in the Cornish countryside, Cotehele has slumbered for 500 years. The main attraction is the house and valley garden at its centre. Built mainly between 1489 and 1520, it is a rare example of a medieval house, set around three courtyards with a magnificent open hall, kitchen, chapel and a warren of private parlours and chambers. The romance of the house is enhanced by colourful terraced gardens to the east, leading via a tunnel into a richly planted valley garden. The path through this garden passes a large domed medieval dovecote and descends to a quay, to which lime and coal were once shipped. There are fine views up and down the winding reed-fringed Tamar from Prospect Tower, and a gallery on the quayside specializes in local arts and crafts. The estate includes a village, a quay with a small maritime museum, working mill buildings, ancient lime kilns and workshops with 19th-century equipment.

Medieval dovecote in the gardens of Cotehele estate

Spanish Armada and British fleets in the English Channel, 1588

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

Sir Francis Drake (c.1540–1596) was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe and he was knighted by Elizabeth I in 1580. Four years later he introduced tobacco and potatoes to England, after bringing home 190 colonists who had tried to establish a settlement in Virginia. To many, however, Drake was no more than an opportunistic rogue, renowned for his exploits as a "privateer", the polite name for a pirate. Catholic Spain was the bitter enemy and Drake further endeared himself to queen and people by his part in the victory over Philip II's Armada *(see pp50–51)*, defeated by bad weather and the buccaneering spirit of the English.

Morwellham Quay ㉘

Near Tavistock, Devon.
Tel *01822 832766.* 🚆 *Gunnislake.*
○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.*
🛍 ✍ ♿ *limited.* 🍴 ☕
www.morwellham-quay.co.uk

Morwellham Quay was a neglected and overgrown industrial site until 1970, when members of a local trust began restoring the abandoned cottages, schoolhouse, farmyards, quay and copper mines to their original condition.

Today, Morwellham Quay is a thriving and rewarding industrial museum, where you can easily spend a whole day partaking in the typical activities of a Victorian village, from preparing the shire horses for a day's work, to riding a tramway deep into a copper mine in the hillside behind the village. The museum is brought to life by characters in costumes, some of whom give demonstrations throughout the day. You can watch, or lend a hand to the cooper while he builds a barrel, attend a lesson in the schoolroom, take part in Victorian playground games or dress up in 19th-century hooped skirts, bonnets, top hats or jackets. The staff, who convincingly play the part of villagers, lead you through their lives and impart a huge amount of information about the history of this small copper-mining community.

Industrial relics at Morwellham Quay in the Tamar Valley

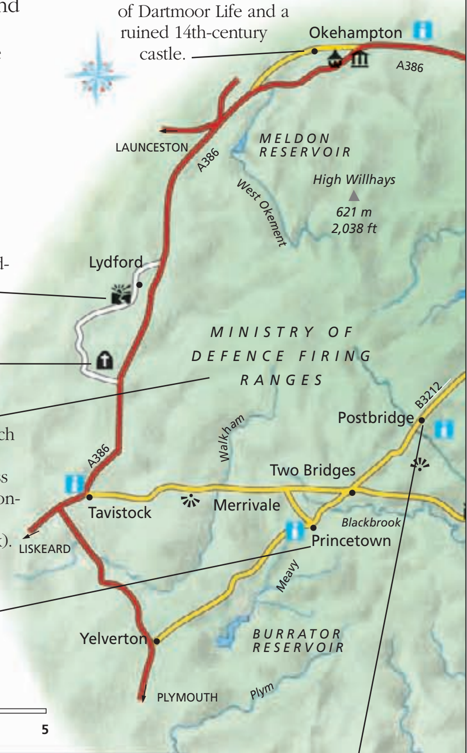
Dartmoor National Park ㉘

Buzzard

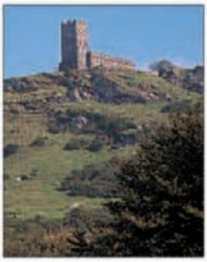
The high, open moorland of central Dartmoor provides the eerie background for Conan Doyle's thriller, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1902). Here at Princetown, surrounded by weathered outcrops of granite tors is one of Britain's most famous prisons. Also dotting the landscape are scores of prehistoric remains which have survived because of the durability of granite. Elsewhere the mood is very different. Streams tumble through wooded and boulder-strewn ravines forming cascades and waterfalls, and thatched cottages nestle in the sheltered valleys around the margins of the moor. Many establishments offer cream teas and warming fires to weary walkers.

Characteristic moorland, eastern Dartmoor

Okehampton has the Museum of Dartmoor Life and a ruined 14th-century castle.


Okehampton
A386
LAUNCESTON
A386
MELDON RESERVOIR
West Okement
High Willhays
621 m
2,038 ft
Lydford
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FIRING RANGES
B3212
Postbridge
Walkham
A386
Two Bridges
Tavistock
Merrivale
Blackbrook
LISKEARD
Princetown
Meavy
Yelverton
BURRATOR RESERVOIR
PLYMOUTH
Plym
Erme
PLYMOUTH
Ivybridge

Lydford Gorge (NT) (open Apr–Oct) is a dramatic ravine, leading to a waterfall.



Brentor

This volcanic hill crowned by a tiny church (first built in 1130) is visible for miles.

The Ministry of Defence uses much of this area for training but access is available on non-firing days (0800 458 4868 to check).

High Moorland Visitor Centre

KEY

ℹ	Information centre
🟥	A road
🟨	B road
═	Minor road
✳	Viewpoint

0 kilometres 5

0 miles 5

Postbridge

Dartmoor's northern moor can be explored from the village of Postbridge. The gently rolling moorland is crossed by many dry-stone walls.

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp574–578 and pp626–630

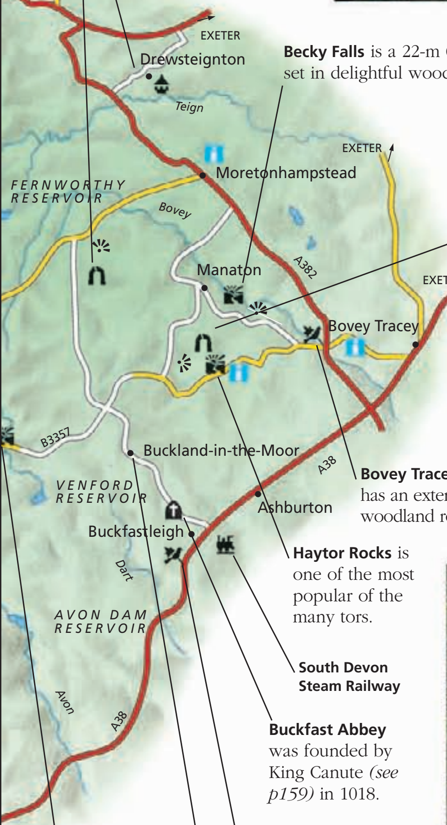
Dartmoor Ponies
These small, tough ponies have lived on the moor since at least the 10th century.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Devon. 🚆 🚌 *Exeter, Plymouth, Totnes then bus.* ℹ *Dartmoor National Park Authority's Centre (01822890414),* **www**.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk. **Okehampton Castle**, Castle Lane, Okehampton. ***Tel*** *01837 52844.* ○ *Apr–Sept: daily.* 🎫 **Museum of Dartmoor Life**, West St, Okehampton. ***Tel*** *01837 52295.* ○ *10:15am–4:15pm Tue & Fri (closed for lunch).* ● *24 Dec–1 Jan.* 🎫 ♿ *limited.* **Castle Drogo (NT)**, Drewsteignton. ***Tel*** *01647 433 306.* ○ *Apr–Nov: Wed–Mon.* **Gardens** ○ *daily.* 🎫 ♿ *gardens only.* 🍴 📺 🛍

Grimspound is the impressive remains of a Bronze Age settlement.

Castle Drogo (NT) is a magnificent mock-castle built by the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens *(see p29)* in 1910–30.


EXETER
Drewsteignton
Teign
FERNWORTHY RESERVOIR
EXETER
Moretonhampstead
Bovey
Manaton
A382
EXETER
Bovey Tracey
B3357
Buckland-in-the-Moor
A38
VENFORD RESERVOIR
Ashburton
Buckfastleigh
Dart
AVON DAM RESERVOIR
Avon
A38

Becky Falls is a 22-m (72-ft) waterfall set in delightful woodlands.

Hound Tor
Nearby lie the remains of a Medieval settlement abandoned in the 14th century.

Bovey Tracey has an extensive woodland reserve.

Haytor Rocks is one of the most popular of the many tors.

South Devon Steam Railway

Buckfast Abbey was founded by King Canute *(see p159)* in 1018.

Dartmoor Butterfly and Otter Sanctuary

Dartmeet marks the lovely confluence point of the East and West Dart rivers.

Buckland-in-the-Moor
One of the many picturesque villages on Dartmoor.

THE MIDLANDS

INTRODUCING THE MIDLANDS 298–305

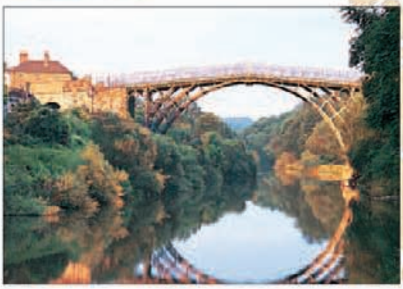
THE HEART OF ENGLAND 306–329

EAST MIDLANDS 330–343

The Midlands at a Glance

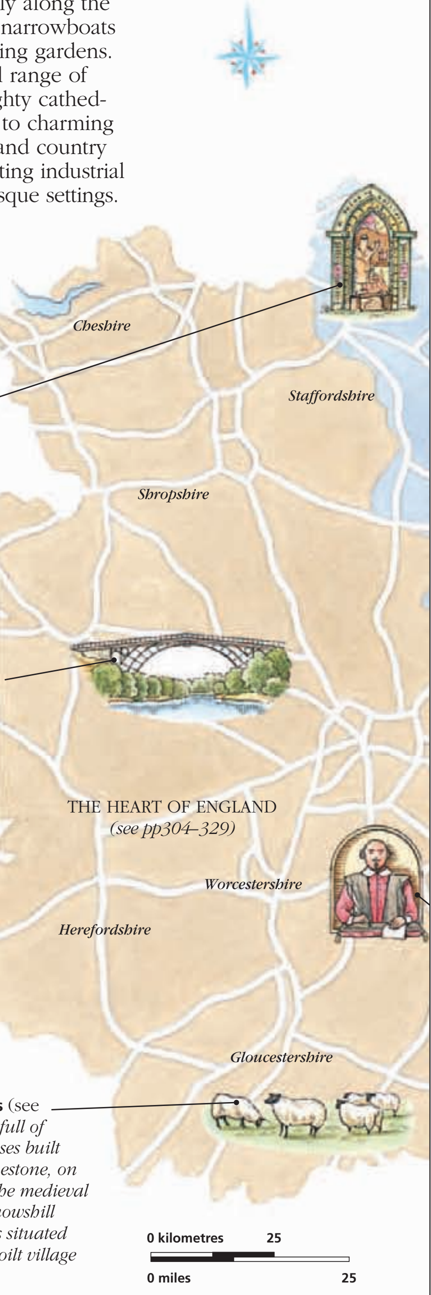
The Midlands is an area that embraces wonderful landscapes and massive industrial cities. Visitors come to discover the wild beauty of the rugged Peaks, cruise slowly along the Midlands canals on gaily painted narrowboats and explore varied and enchanting gardens. The area encompasses the full range of English architecture from mighty cathedrals and humble churches to charming spa towns, stately homes and country cottages. There are fascinating industrial museums, many in picturesque settings.

Tissington Trail (see p337) *combines a walk through scenic Peak District countryside with an entertaining insight into the ancient custom of well-dressing.*



Ironbridge Gorge (see pp314–15) *was the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution* (see pp348–9). *Now a World Heritage Centre, the site is a reminder of the lovely countryside in which the original factories were located.*

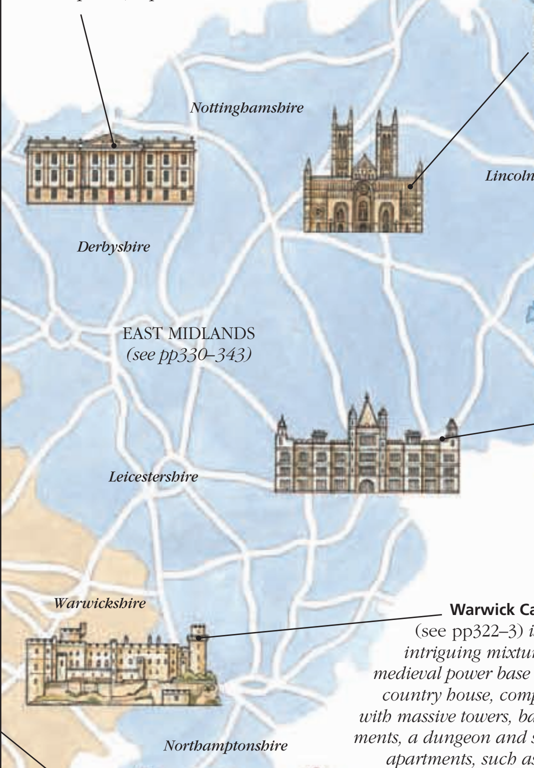
The Cotswolds (see pp304–5) *are full of delightful houses built from local limestone, on the profits of the medieval wool trade. Snowshill Manor (left) is situated near the unspoilt village of Broadway.*


Cheshire
Staffordshire
Shropshire
THE HEART OF ENGLAND
(see pp304–329)
Worcestershire
Herefordshire
Gloucestershire
0 kilometres 25
0 miles 25

◁ **The front of the half-timbered Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick**

Chatsworth House (see pp334–5), *a magnificent Baroque edifice, is famous for its gorgeous gardens. The "Conservative" Wall, a greenhouse for exotic plants, is pictured above.*

Lincoln Cathedral (see p341), *a vast, imposing building, dominates the ancient town. Inside are splendid misericords and the superb 13th-century Angel Choir, which has 30 carved angels.*


Nottinghamshire
Lincolnshire
Derbyshire
EAST MIDLANDS
(see pp330–343)
Leicestershire
Warwickshire
Northamptonshire

Burghley House (see pp342–3) *is a dazzling landmark for miles around in the flat East Midlands landscape, with architectural motifs from the European Renaissance.*

Warwick Castle (see pp322–3) *is an intriguing mixture of medieval power base and country house, complete with massive towers, battlements, a dungeon and state apartments, such as the Queen Anne Bedroom.*

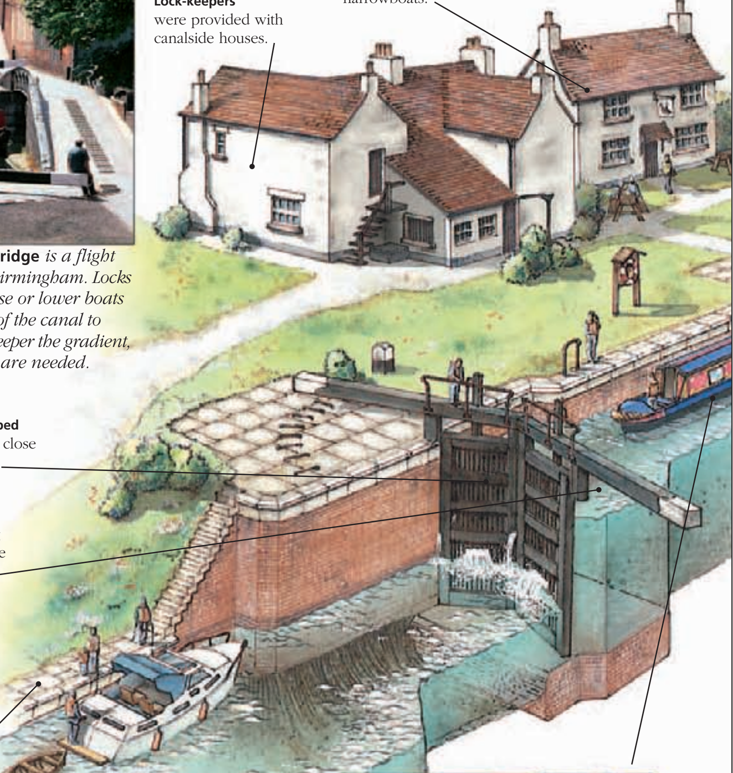
Stratford-upon-Avon (see pp324–7) *has many picturesque houses connected with William Shakespeare's life, some of which are open to visitors. These black and white timber-framed buildings, which abound in the Midlands, are a typical example of Tudor architecture* (see pp302–3).

Canals of the Midlands

One of England's first canals was built by the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater in 1761 to link the coal mine on his Worsley estate with Manchester's textile factories. This heralded the start of a canal-building boom and by 1805, a 3,000 mile (4,800 km) network of waterways had been dug across the country, linking into the natural river system. Canals provided the cheapest, fastest way of transporting goods, until competition began to arrive from the railways in the 1840s. Cargo transport ended in 1963 but today nearly 2,000 miles (3,200 km) of canals are still navigable, for travellers who wish to take a leisurely cruise on a narrowboat.

The Grand Union Canal *(pictured in 1931) is 300 miles (485 km) long and was dug in the 1790s to link London with the Midlands.*

The Farmer's Bridge *is a flight of 13 locks in Birmingham. Locks are used to raise or lower boats from one level of the canal to another. The steeper the gradient, the more locks are needed.*



Lock-keepers were provided with canalside houses.

Lockside inns cater for narrowboats.

Heavy V-shaped timber gates close off the lock.

Water pressing against the gate keeps it shut.

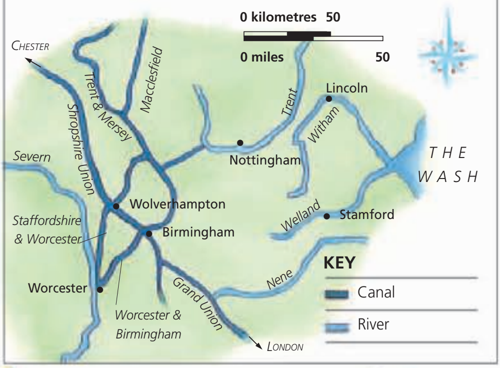
The towpath is where horses pulled the canal boats before engines were invented. They were changed periodically for fresh animals.

No 7
BILL O TOMS
NEW MARTON LOCK
R.M.&L
BUT

Narrowboats *have straight sides and flat bottoms and are pointed at both ends. Cargo space took up most of the boat, with a small cabin for the crew. Exteriors were brightly painted.*

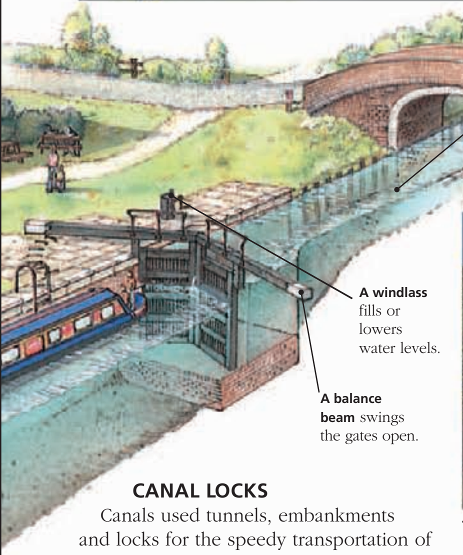
MIDLANDS CANAL NETWORK

The industrial Midlands was the birthplace of the English canal system and still has the biggest concentration of navigable waterways.


0 kilometres 50
0 miles 50
Chester
Trent & Mersey
Macclesfield
Trent
Lincoln
Witham
Shropshire Union
Severn
Nottingham
THE WASH
Wolverhampton
Staffordshire & Worcester
Birmingham
Welland
Stamford
KEY
Canal
River
Nene
Grand Union
Worcester
Worcester & Birmingham
London

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Companies specializing in canal boat holidays: Blake's Holidays ***Tel*** *01603 739400*; Hoseasons ***Tel*** *01502 501010*; Canal Cruising Co ***Tel*** *01785 813982*; Black Prince Holidays ***Tel*** *01527 575115*; Alvechurch Boat Centres Ltd ***Tel*** *0121 445 2909*;
Canal museums: Phone to check opening times: National Waterways Museum *(see p329)*; Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne, Towcester ***Tel*** *01604 862229*; Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port. ***Tel*** *0151 3555017*.
www.thewaterwaystrust.co.uk


Canal
Footbridge

A windlass fills or lowers water levels.

A balance beam swings the gates open.

The Edstone Aqueduct, *just north of Stratford-upon-Avon, carries the canal in a cast iron trough. This is supported on brick piers for 180 m (495 ft), over roads and a busy railway line.*

CANAL LOCKS

Canals used tunnels, embankments and locks for the speedy transportation of goods across country. Locks were used to convey boats up or down hills.

CANAL ART

Canal boat cabins are very small and every inch of space is utilized to make a comfortable home for the occupants. Interiors were enlivened with colourful paintings and attractive decorations.

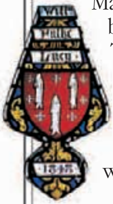
Furniture was designed to be functional and to brighten up the cramped cabin.

Narrowboats are often decorated with ornamental brass.

Water cans were also painted. The most common designs were roses and castles, with local variations in style.

Tudor Manor Houses

Many striking manor houses were built in central England during the Tudor Age *(see pp50–51),* a time of relative peace and prosperity. The abolition of the monasteries meant that vast estates were broken up and sold to secular landowners, who built houses to reflect their new status *(see p28).* In the Midlands, wood was the main building material, and the gentry flaunted their wealth by using timber panelling for flamboyant decorative effect.

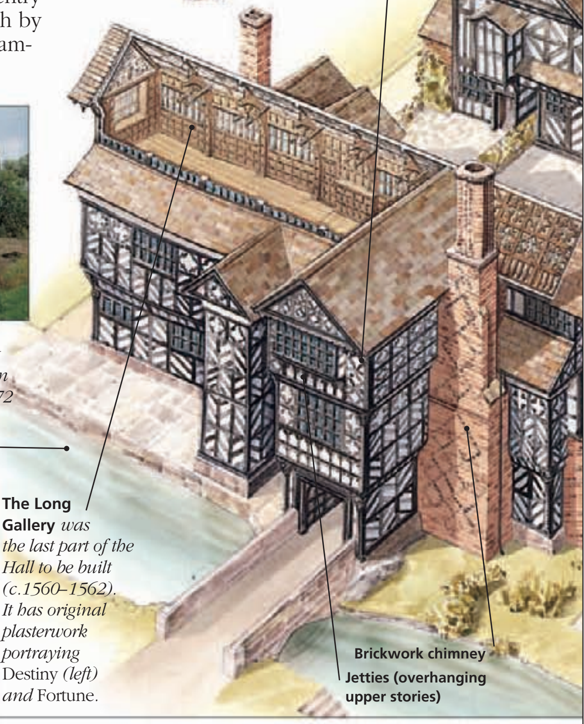


The Lucy family arms

The decorative moulding *on the south wing dates from the late 16th century. Ancient motifs, such as vines and trefoils, are combined with the latest imported Italian Renaissance styles.*

The rectangular moat *was for decoration rather than defence. It surrounds a recreated knot garden* (see p26) *that was laid out in 1972 using plants known to have been available in Tudor times.*

The Long Gallery *was the last part of the Hall to be built (c.1560–1562). It has original plasterwork portraying* Destiny *(left) and* Fortune.



Brickwork chimney

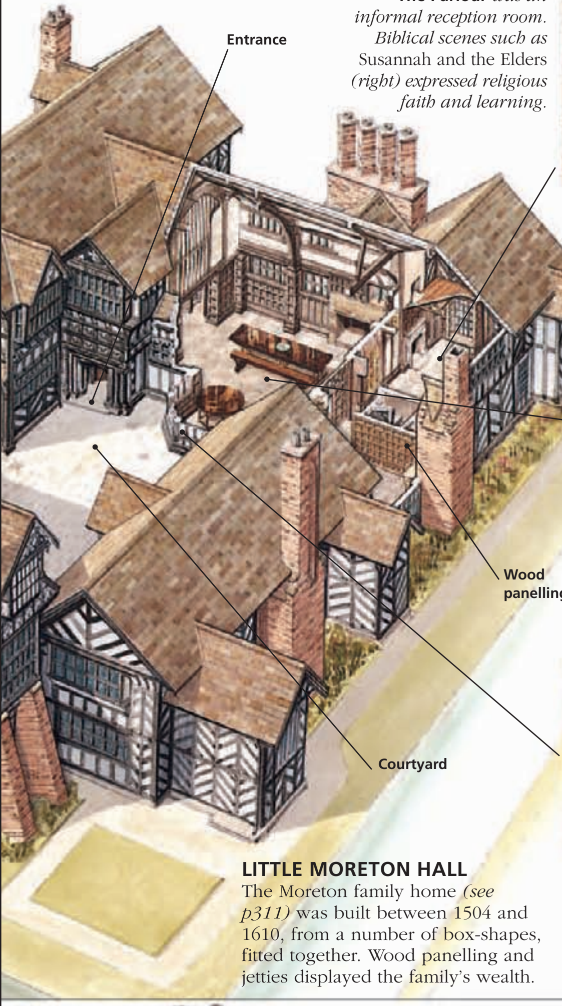
Jetties (overhanging upper stories)

TUDOR MANSIONS AND TUDOR REVIVAL

There are many sumptuously decorated Tudor mansions in the Midlands. In the 19th century Tudor Revival architecture became a very popular "Old English" style, intended to invoke family pride and values rooted in the past.

Hardwick Hall *in Derbyshire, whose huge kitchen is pictured, is one of the finest Tudor mansions in the country. These buildings are known as "prodigy" houses* (see p342) *due to their gigantic size.*

Charlecote Park, *Warwickshire, is a brick mansion built by Sir Thomas Lucy in 1551–59. It was heavily restored in Tudor style in the 19th century, but has a fine original gatehouse. According to legend, the young William Shakespeare* (see pp324–7) *was caught poaching deer in the park.*



The Parlour *was an informal reception room. Biblical scenes such as* Susannah and the Elders *(right) expressed religious faith and learning.*

The Great Hall *(c.1504–1508) is the oldest part of the house, and in Tudor times was the most important. The open-plan hall was the main communal area for dining and entertainment.*

RYCHARDE DALE CARPEDER MADE THIES WINDOWS BY THE GRAC OF GOD

The patterned glazing *in the great bay window is typically 16th century: small pieces of locally made glass were cut into diamond shapes and held in place by lead glazing bars.*

LITTLE MORETON HALL

The Moreton family home *(see p311)* was built between 1504 and 1610, from a number of box-shapes, fitted together. Wood panelling and jetties displayed the family's wealth.

Packwood House *in Warwickshire is a timber-framed mid-Tudor house with extensive 17th–century additions. The unusual garden of clipped yew trees dates from the 17th century and is supposed to represent the Sermon on the Mount.*

Moseley Old Hall, *Staffordshire, has a red brick exterior concealing its early 17th-century timber frame. The King's Room is where Charles II hid after the Battle of Worcester* (see pp52–3).

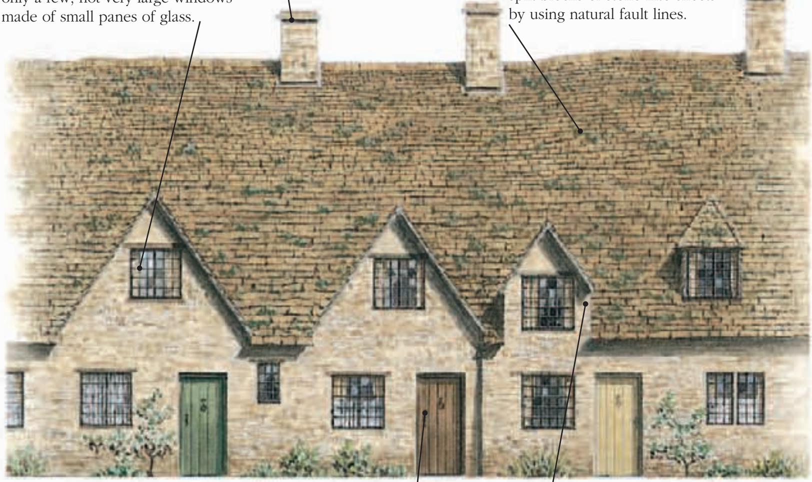
Wightwick Manor, *West Midlands, was built in 1887–93. It is a fine example of Tudor Revival architecture and has superb late 19th-century furniture and decorations.*

Building with Cotswold Stone

Dragon, Deerhurst Church

The Cotswolds are a range of limestone hills running over 50 miles (80 km) in a north-easterly direction from Bath *(see pp258–61)*. The thin soils are difficult to plough but ideal for grazing sheep, and the wealth engendered by the medieval wool trade was poured into building majestic churches and opulent town houses. Stone quarried from these hills was used to build London's St Paul's Cathedral *(see pp114–15),* as well as the villages, barns and manor houses that make the landscape so picturesque.

Arlington Row Cottages *in Bibury, a typical Cotswold village, were built in the 17th century for weavers whose looms were set up in the attics.*



Windows were taxed and glass expensive. Workers' cottages had only a few, not very large windows made of small panes of glass.

A drip mould keeps rain off the chimney.

The roof is steeply pitched to carry the weight of the tiles. These were made by master craftsmen who could split blocks of stone into sheets by using natural fault lines.

Timber lintels and doors

Timber framing was cheaper than stone, and was used for the upper rooms in the roof.

COTSWOLD STONE COTTAGE

The two-storey Arlington Row Cottages are asymmetrical and built of odd-shaped stones. Small windows and doorways make them quite dark inside.

VARIATIONS IN STONE

Cotswold stone is warmer-toned in the north, pearly in central areas and light grey in the south. The stone seems to glow with absorbed sunlight. It is a soft stone that is easily carved and can be used for many purposes, from buildings to bridges, headstones and gargoyles.

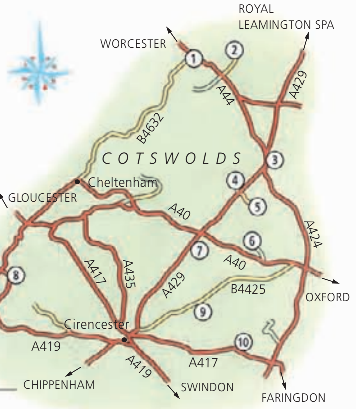
"Tiddles" *is a cat's gravestone in Fairford churchyard.*

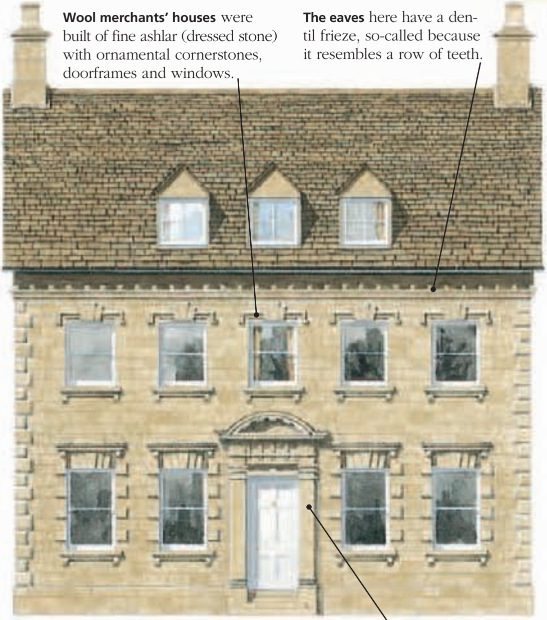
Lower Slaughter *gets its name from the Anglo-Saxon word* slough, *or muddy place. It has a low stone bridge, over the River Eye.*

COTSWOLD STONE TOWNS AND VILLAGES

The villages and towns on this map are prime examples of places built almost entirely from stone. By the 12th century almost all of the villages in the area were established. Huge deposits of limestone resulted in a wealth of stone buildings. Masons worked from distinctive local designs that were handed down from generation to generation.

① Winchcombe
② Broadway
③ Stow-on-the-Wold
④ Upper and Lower Slaughter
⑤ Bourton-on-the-Water
⑥ Sherborne
⑦ Northleach
⑧ Painswick
⑨ Bibury
⑩ Fairford


ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
WORCESTER
①
②
A44
A429
B4632
COTSWOLDS
③
④
Cheltenham
GLOUCESTER
⑤
A40
A424
⑥
⑦
A40
A417
A435
A429
⑧
B4425
OXFORD
Stroud
⑨
Cirencester
⑩
A419
A419
A417
CHIPPENHAM
SWINDON
FARINGDON



Wool merchants' houses were built of fine ashlar (dressed stone) with ornamental cornerstones, doorframes and windows.

The eaves here have a dentil frieze, so-called because it resembles a row of teeth.

COTSWOLD STONE HOUSE

This early Georgian merchant's house in Painswick shows the fully developed Cotswold style, which borrows decorative elements from Classical architecture.

The door frame has a rounded pediment on simple pilasters.

STONE GARGOYLES

In Winchcombe's church, 15th-century gargoyles reflect a combination of pagan and Christian beliefs.

Pagan gods warded off pre-Christian evil spirits.

Fertility figures, always important in rural areas, were incorporated into Christian festivals.

Human faces often caricatured local church dignitaries.

Animal gods represented qualities such as strength in pagan times.

Dry-stone walling *is an ancient technique used in the Cotswolds. The stones are held in place without mortar.*

A stone cross *(16th century) in Stanton village, near Broadway, is one of many found in the Cotswolds.*

Table-top and "tea caddy", *fine 18th-century tombs, can be found in Painswick churchyard.*

The Cotswold Arms
Bar Snacks
Restaurant
Beer Garden
Morning Coffee

THE HEART OF ENGLAND

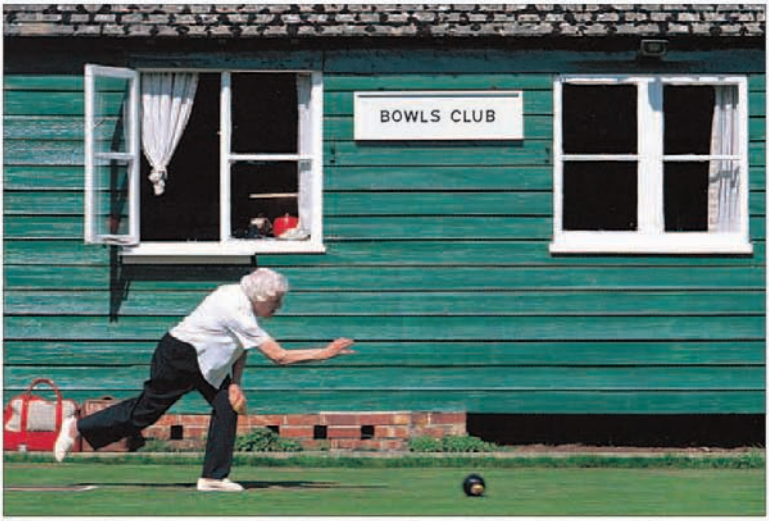
CHESHIRE · GLOUCESTERSHIRE · HEREFORDSHIRE
SHROPSHIRE · STAFFORDSHIRE · WARWICKSHIRE · WORCESTERSHIRE

Britain's great attraction is its variety, and nowhere is this more true than at the heart of the country, where the Cotswold hills, enfolding stone cottages and churches, give way to the flat, fertile plains of Warwickshire. Shakespeare country borders on the industrial heart of England, once known as the workshop of the world.

Coventry, Birmingham, the Potteries and their hinterlands have been manufacturing iron, textiles and ceramics since the 18th century. In the 20th century these industries have declined, and a new type of museum has developed to commemorate the towns' industrial heyday and explain the manufacturing processes which were once taken for granted. Ironbridge Gorge and Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, where the factories are now living museums, are fascinating industrial sites and enjoy beautiful surroundings.

These landscapes may be appreciated from the deck of a narrowboat, making gentle progress along the Midlands canals, to the region on the border with Wales known as the Marches. Here the massive walls of Chester and the castles at Shrewsbury and Ludlow recall the Welsh locked in fierce battle with Norman barons and the Marcher Lords. The Marches are now full of rural communities served by the peaceful market towns of Leominster, Malvern, Ross-on-Wye and Hereford. The cities of Worcester and Gloucester both have modern shopping centres, yet their majestic cathedrals retain the tranquillity of an earlier age.

Cheltenham has Regency terraces, Cirencester a rich legacy of Roman art and Tewkesbury a solid Norman abbey. Finally, there is Stratford-upon-Avon, where William Shakespeare, the Elizabethan dramatist, lived and died.



Leisurely village pastimes, reminiscent of a more tranquil age

◁ **Cotswold stone: an extremely popular building material in the Heart of England**

Exploring the Heart of England

The heart of England, more than any other region, takes its character from the landscape. Picturesque houses, pubs and churches, made from timber and Cotswold stone, create a harmonic appearance that delights visitors and adds greatly to the pleasures of exploration. The area around Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent, however – once the industrial hub of England – contrasts sharply. The bleak concrete skyline may not appeal, but the area has a fascinating history that is reflected in the self-confident Victorian art and architecture, and a series of award-winning industrial heritage museums.

Arlington Row: stone cottages in the Cotswold village of Bibury

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Birmingham ⑬
Cheltenham ⑳
Chester ②
Chipping Campden ⑱
Cirencester ㉒
Coventry ⑭
Gloucester ㉑
Great Malvern ⑪
Hereford ⑧
Ironbridge pp314–15 ⑤
Ledbury ⑩
Leominster ⑦
Ludlow ⑥
Quarry Bank Mill, Styal ①
Ross-on-Wye ⑨
Shrewsbury ④
Stoke-on-Trent ③
Stratford-upon-Avon pp324–7 ⑰
Tewkesbury ⑲
Warwick pp321–3 ⑯
Worcester ⑫

Walks and Tours

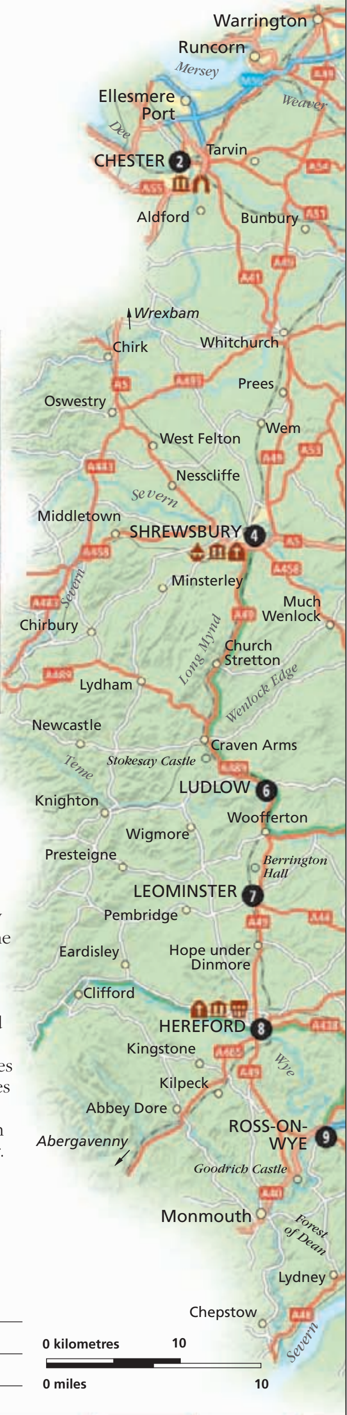
Midlands Garden Tour ⑮

GETTING AROUND

The Heart of England is easily reached by train, with mainline rail services to Cheltenham, Worcester, Birmingham, and Coventry. The M5 and M6 motorways are the major road routes but are frequently congested. Long-distance buses provide regular shuttle services to Cheltenham and Birmingham. Travelling within the region is best done by car. Rural roads are delightfully empty, although major attractions, such as Stratford-upon-Avon, may be very crowded during the summer.

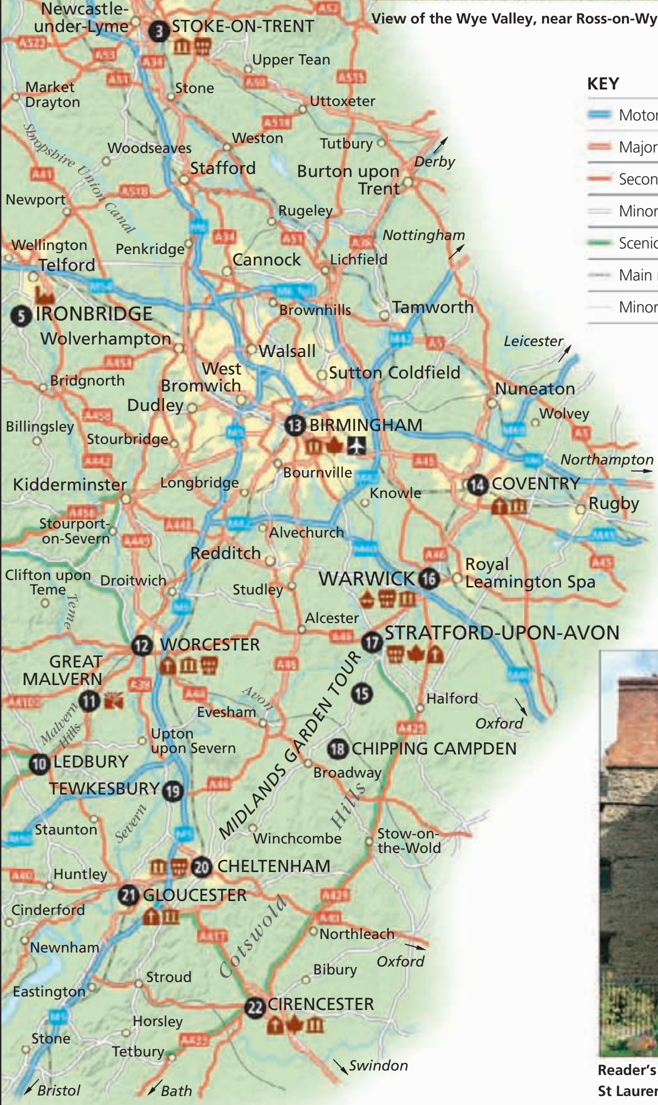
SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp578–80
- ***Where to Eat*** pp630–32


Warrington
Runcorn
Mersey
Weaver
Ellesmere Port
Dee
CHESTER ②
Tarvin
Aldford
Bunbury
Wrexham
Chirk
Whitchurch
Prees
Oswestry
Wem
West Felton
Nesscliffe
Severn
Middletown
SHREWSBURY ④
Minsterley
Much Wenlock
Severn
Chirbury
Long Mynd
Church Stretton
Lydham
Wenlock Edge
Newcastle
Craven Arms
Teme
Stokesay Castle
LUDLOW ⑥
Knighton
Woofferton
Wigmore
Presteigne
Berrington Hall
LEOMINSTER ⑦
Pembridge
Eardisley
Hope under Dinmore
Clifford
HEREFORD ⑧
Kingstone
Wye
Kilpeck
Abbey Dore
Abergavenny
ROSS-ON-WYE ⑨
Goodrich Castle
Monmouth
Forest of Dean
Lydney
Chepstow
Severn
0 kilometres 10
0 miles 10

For additional map symbols *see back flap*

View of the Wye Valley, near Ross-on-Wye


Manchester
1 QUARRY BANK MILL
Knutsford
Wilmslow
Macclesfield
Northwich
Sandbach
Congleton
Hartington
Little Moreton Hall
Crewe
Leek
Nantwich
Tunstall
Newcastle-under-Lyme
3 STOKE-ON-TRENT
Upper Tean
Market Drayton
Stone
Uttoxeter
Shropshire Union Canal
Weston
Tutbury
Woodseaves
Derby
Stafford
Burton upon Trent
Newport
Rugeley
Nottingham
Wellington
Penkridge
Cannock
Lichfield
Telford
5 IRONBRIDGE
Brownhills
Tamworth
Wolverhampton
Walsall
Leicester
West Bromwich
Sutton Coldfield
Bridgnorth
Nuneaton
Dudley
Wolvey
Billingsley
13 BIRMINGHAM
Stourbridge
Northampton
Bournville
Kidderminster
Longbridge
14 COVENTRY
Knowle
Rugby
Stourport-on-Severn
Alvechurch
Redditch
Clifton upon Teme
Droitwich
Royal Leamington Spa
WARWICK 16
Studley
Teme
Alcester
17 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
12 WORCESTER
GREAT MALVERN
15
11
Avon
Halford
Evesham
MIDLANDS GARDEN TOUR
Malvern Hills
Oxford
Upton upon Severn
18 CHIPPING CAMPDEN
10 LEDBURY
Broadway
TEWKESBURY 19
Hills
Staunton
Severn
Stow-on-the-Wold
Winchcombe
20 CHELTENHAM
Huntley
21 GLOUCESTER
Cinderford
Cotswold
Northleach
Newnham
Oxford
Bibury
Stroud
Eastington
22 CIRENCESTER
Horsley
Stone
Tetbury
Swindon
Bristol
Bath

KEY

- Motorway
- Major road
- Secondary road
- Minor road
- Scenic route
- Main railway
- Minor railway

Reader's House, Ludlow, opposite St Laurence's Church

Quarry Bank Mill, a working reminder of the Industrial Revolution

Quarry Bank Mill, Styal ❶

(NT) Cheshire. ***Tel*** *01625 445896.*
🚆 *Manchester Airport, then bus.*
○ *Mar–Oct: daily; Nov–Jan: Wed–Sun (& Mon in school hols).* ● *24 & 25 Dec.* 💷 ♿ *limited.* 🍴 🛍
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The history of the Industrial Revolution *(see pp54–5)* is brought vividly to life at Quarry Bank Mill, an early factory now transformed into a museum and private garden. Here, mill master Samuel Greg first used the waters of the Bollin Valley in 1784 to power the water frame, a machine for spinning raw cotton fibres into thread. By the 1840s, the Greg cotton empire was one of the biggest in Britain, and the mill produced bolts of material to be exported all over the world.

Today the massive old mill buildings have been restored to house a living museum of the cotton industry. This dominated the Manchester area for nearly 200 years, but was finally destroyed by foreign competition. The entire process, from the spinning and weaving to the bleaching, printing and dyeing, is shown through a series of reconstructions, demonstrations and hands-on displays. The weaving shed is full of clattering looms producing textiles. There are fascinating contraptions that demonstrate how water can be used to drive machinery, including an enormous wheel, 50 tons in weight and 7 m (24 ft) high, that is still used to power the looms.

The Greg family realized the importance of having a healthy, loyal and stable workforce. A social history exhibition explains how the mill workers were housed in the purpose-built village of Styal, in spacious cottages which had vegetable gardens and toilets. Details of their wages, working conditions and medical facilities are displayed on information boards.

There are guided tours of the nearby **Apprentice House**. Local orphans lived here, and were sent to work up to 12 hours a day at the mill when they were just six or seven years old. Visitors can try the beds in the house and even sample the medicine they were given. Quarry Bank Mill is surrounded by over 115 ha (284 acres) of woodland.

Chester ❷

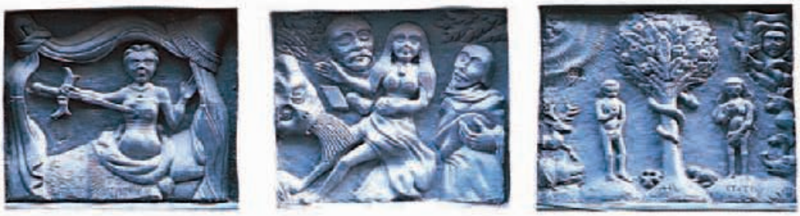
Cheshire. 👥 *125,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *Town Hall, Northgate St (01244 402111).* 🛒 *Mon–Sat.*
www.visitchester.com

First settled by the Romans *(see pp44–5),* who established a camp in AD 79 to defend fertile land near the River Dee, the main streets of Chester are now lined with timber buildings. These are the **Chester Rows**, which, with their two tiers of shops and continuous upper gallery, anticipate today's multi-storey shops by several centuries.

Although their oriel windows and decorative timber-work are mostly 19th century, the Rows were first built in the 13th and 14th centuries, and the original structures can be seen in many places. The façade of the 16th-century **Bishop Lloyd's House** in Watergate Street is the most richly carved in Chester. The Rows are at their most varied and attractive where Eastgate Street meets Bridge Street. Here, views of the cathedral and the town walls give the impression of a perfectly preserved medieval city. This illusion is helped by the Town Crier, who calls the hour and announces news in summer from the Cross, a reconstruction of the 15th-century stone crucifix that was destroyed in the Civil War *(see pp52–3).*

Chester's 1897 clocktower

The **Grosvenor Museum,** south of the Cross, explains the town's history. To the north is the **cathedral**. The choir stalls have splendid misericords *(see p341),* with



Examples of the intricate carving on Bishop Lloyd's House, a Tudor building in Watergate Street, Chester

The Chester Rows, where shops line the first-floor galleries

scenes including a quarrelling couple. In sharp contrast are the delicate spire-lets on the stall canopies. The cathedral is surrounded on two sides by the **city walls**, originally Roman but rebuilt at intervals. The best stretch is from the cathedral to Eastgate, where a wrought-iron **clock** was erected in 1897. The route to Newgate leads to a **Roman amphitheatre** built in AD 100.

🏛 Grosvenor Museum
Grosvenor St. ***Tel*** *01244 402033.*
○ *Mon–Sat, Sun pm.* ● *1 Jan, Good Fri, 25 & 26 Dec.* 🛍 ♿ *limited.* **www**.visitchester.com

∩ Roman Amphitheatre
Little St John St. ***Tel*** *01244 402009.*
○ *daily.*

Stoke-on-Trent ❸

Stoke-on-Trent. 👥 *252,000.*
🚆 🚌 ℹ *Victoria Hall Cultural Quarter (01782 236000).* ⌂ *Mon–Sat.* **www**.visitstoke.co.uk

From the mid-18th century, Staffordshire became a leading centre for mass-produced ceramics. Its fame arose from the fine bone china and porcelain products of Wedgwood, Minton, Doulton and Spode, but the Staffordshire potteries also make a wide range of utilitarian products such as baths, toilets and wall tiles.

In 1910 a group of six towns – Longton, Fenton, Hanley, Burslem, Tunstall and Stoke – merged to form the conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent, also known as the Potteries. Fans of the writer Arnold Bennett (1867–1931) may recognise this area as the "Five Towns", a term he used in a series of novels about the region (Fenton was excluded).

The **Gladstone Pottery Museum** is a Victorian complex of workshops, kilns, galleries and an engine house. There are demonstrations of traditional pottery techniques. The **Potteries Museum and Art Gallery** in Hanley has historic and modern ceramics.

Josiah Wedgwood began his earthenware firm in 1769 and built a workers' village, Etruria. The last surviving steam-powered pottery mill is on display at the **Etruria Industrial Museum**.

Environs: About 10 miles (16 km) north of Stoke-on-Trent is **Little Moreton Hall** *(see p303),* a Tudor manor house.

🏛 Gladstone Pottery Museum
Uttoxeter Rd, Longton.
Tel *01782 237777.* ○ *daily.*
● *24 Dec–2 Jan.* ✋ ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.stoke.gov.uk/gladstone

🏛 Potteries Museum and Art Gallery
Bethesda St, Hanley. ***Tel*** *01782 232323.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec–1 Jan.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.stoke.gov.uk/museums

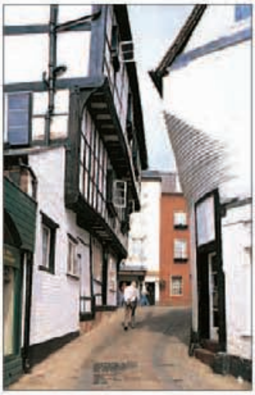
🏛 Etruria Industrial Museum
Lower Bedford St, Etruria. ***Tel*** *01782 233144.* ○ *Apr–Dec: Wed–Sun; Jan–Mar: by tour only – call to book.*
✋ ✋ ☕ 🛍

⌂ Little Moreton Hall
(NT) Congleton, off A34. ***Tel*** *01260 272018.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Wed–Sun; Jan–Mar & Nov–Dec: Sat & Sun.* ✋

STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERY

An abundance of water, marl, clay and easily mined coal to fire the kilns enabled Staffordshire to develop as a ceramics centre; and local supplies of iron, copper and lead were used for glazing. In the 18th century, pottery became widely accessible and affordable. English bone china, which used powdered animals' bones for strength and translucence, was shipped all over the world, and Josiah Wedgwood (1730–95) introduced simple, durable crockery – though his best known design is the blue jasperware decorated with white Classical themes. Coal-powered bottle kilns fired the clay until the 1950s Clean Air Acts put them out of business. They have been replaced by electric or gas-fired kilns.

Wedgwood candlesticks, 1785



Timber-framed, gabled mansions in Fish Street, Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury ❹

Shropshire. 👥 *96,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *The Square (01743 281201).*
🏪 *Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat.* 🎭 *Shrewsbury Flower Show (mid Aug).*

Shrewsbury is almost an island, enclosed by a great loop of the River Severn. A gaunt **castle** of red sandstone, first built in 1083, guards the entrance to the town, standing on the only section of land not surrounded by the river. Such defences were necessary on the frontier between England and the wilder Marches of Wales, whose inhabitants fiercely defied Saxon and Norman invaders *(see pp46–7)*. The castle, rebuilt over the centuries, now houses the Shropshire Regimental Museum.

In AD 60 the Romans *(see pp44–5)* built the garrison town of Viroconium, modern Wroxeter, 5 miles (8 km) east of Shrewsbury. Finds from the excavations are displayed at **Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery**, including a decorated silver mirror from the 2nd century and other luxury goods imported by the Roman army.

The town's medieval wealth as a centre of the wool trade is evident in the many timber-framed buildings found along the High Street, Butcher Row, and Wyle Cop. Two of the grandest High Street houses, **Ireland's Mansions** and **Owen's Mansions**, are named after Robert Ireland and Richard Owen, the wealthy wool merchants who built them in 1575 and 1570 respectively. Similarly attractive buildings in Fish Street frame a view of the **Prince Rupert Hotel**, which was briefly the headquarters of Charles I's nephew, Rupert, in the English Civil War *(see pp52–3)*.

Outside the loop of the river, the **Abbey Church** survives from the medieval monastery. It has a number of interesting memorials, including one to Lieutenant WES Owen MC, better known as the war poet Wilfred Owen (1893–1918), who taught at the local Wyle Cop school and was killed in the last days of World War I.

Environs: To the south of Shrewsbury, the road to Ludlow passes through the landscapes celebrated in the 1896 poem by AE Housman (1859–1936), *A Shropshire Lad*. Highlights include the bleak moors of **Long Mynd**, with 15 prehistoric barrows, and **Wenlock Edge**, wonderful walking country with glorious, far-reaching views.

Roman silver mirror in Rowley's House Museum

Shrewsbury Castle
Castle St. ***Tel*** *01743 361196.*
○ *Tue–Sat.* ● *late Dec–mid-Feb.*
✋ ♿ 🛍

Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery
Barker St. ***Tel*** *01743 281205.* ●
for refurbishment – call for details.
♿ *limited.* 🛍 **www**.shrewsburymuseums.com

Ironbridge Gorge ❺

See pp314–15.

Ludlow ❻

Shropshire. 👥 *10,000.* 🚆 ℹ *Castle St (01584 875053).* 🏪 *Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat.* 🎭 *music & drama (end Jun).*
www.ludlow.org.uk

Ludlow attracts large numbers of visitors to its splendid castle, but there is much else to see in this town, with its small shops and its lovely Georgian and half-timbered Tudor buildings. Ludlow is an important area of geological research and the **museum**, just off the town centre, has fossils of the oldest known animals and plants.

The ruined **castle** is sited on cliffs high above the River Teme. Built in 1086, it was damaged in the Civil War *(see pp52–3)* and abandoned in 1689. *Comus*, a court masque using music and drama, by John Milton (1608–74) was first performed here in 1634 in the Great Hall.

The 13th-century south tower and hall of Stokesay Castle, near Ludlow

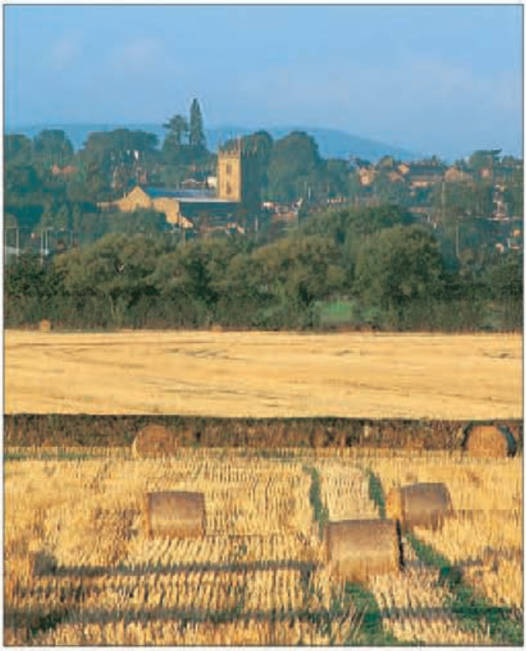
Prince Arthur (1486–1502), elder brother of Henry VIII *(see pp50–51),* died at Ludlow Castle. His heart is buried in **St Laurence Church** at the other end of Castle Square, as are the ashes of the poet A E Housman. The east end of the church backs onto the **Bull Ring**, with its ornate timber buildings. Two inns vie for attention across the street: **The Bull**, with its Tudor back yard, and **The Feathers**, with its flamboyant façade, whose name recalls the feathers used in arrow-making, once a local industry.

Environs: About 5 miles (8 km) north of Ludlow, in a lovely setting, is **Stokesay Castle**, a fortified manor house with a colourful moated garden.

♜ Ludlow Castle
The Square. ***Tel*** *01584 873355.*
○ *daily (Dec & Jan: Sat & Sun only).*
♿ ☕ 🍴 🛍

🏛 Ludlow Museum
Castle St. ***Tel*** *01584 873857.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Mon–Sat (Jun–Aug: daily).* ♿

♜ Stokesay Castle
(EH) Craven Arms, A49. ***Tel*** *01588 672544.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Wed–Sun; (Apr–Sep: daily); Nov–Feb: Thu–Sun .*
☕ 🛍



A view of Leominster, set on the River Lugg in rolling border country

Leominster ⑦

Herefordshire. 👥 *11,000.* 🚉
ℹ *Corn Sq (01568 616460).*
Fri. **www**.herefordshire.gov.uk

Farmers come to Leominster (pronounced "Lemster") from all over this rural region to buy supplies. There are two buildings of note in the town, which has been a wool-manufacturing centre for 700 years. In the town centre stands the magnificent **Grange Court**, carved with bold and bizarre figures in 1633. Nearby is the **priory**, whose imposing Norman portal is carved with an equally strange mixture of mythical birds and beasts. The lions, at least, can be explained: medieval monks believed the name of Leominster was derived from *monasterium leonis*, "the monastery of the lions". In fact, *leonis* probably comes from medieval, rather than Classical Latin, and it means "of the marshes". The aptness of this description can readily be seen in the green lanes around the town, following the lush river valleys.

Environs: South of the town, the magnificent gardens and parkland at **Hampton Court** have been restored and include island pavilions and a maze. To the west of the town, along the River Arrow, are the villages of **Eardisland** and **Pembridge**, with their well-kept gardens and timber-framed houses. **Berrington Hall**, 3 miles (5 km) north of Leominster, is a Neo-Classical house set in grounds by "Capability" Brown. Inside are beautifully preserved ceiling decorations and period furniture.

To the northeast of Leominster is **Tenbury Wells**, which enjoyed brief popularity as a spa in the 19th century. The River Teme flows through it, full of minnows, trout and other fish and beloved of the composer Sir Edward Elgar *(see p317)*, who came to seek inspiration on its banks. The river also feeds **Burford House Gardens**, on the western outskirts of Tenbury Wells, where the water is used to create streams, fountains and pools that are rich in unusual moisture-loving plants.

🍁 Hampton Court Gardens
nr Hope Under Dinmore. ***Tel*** *01568 797 777.* ○ *Apr–21 Dec: 11am–5pm (to 4pm Nov–Dec) Tue–Sun.* ♿
🍴 🛍 **www**.hamptoncourt.org.uk

🏛 Berrington Hall
(NT) Berrington. ***Tel*** *01568 615721.*
○ *mid-Mar–Oct: Sat–Wed; Nov–mid-Mar: Sat & Sun.* 🍴 🛍

🍁 Burford House Gardens
Tenbury Wells. ***Tel*** *01584 810777.*
○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.*
♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.burford.co.uk

Gatehouse of Stokesay Castle, near Ludlow

Ironbridge Gorge ❺

Ironbridge Gorge was one of the most important centres of the Industrial Revolution *(see pp54–5)*. It was here, in 1709, Abraham Darby I (1678–1717) pioneered the use of inexpensive coke, rather than charcoal, to smelt iron ore. The use of iron in bridges, ships and buildings transformed Ironbridge Gorge into one of the world's great iron-making centres. Industrial decline in the 20th century led to the Gorge's decay, although today it has been restored as an exciting complex of industrial archaeology, with several museums strung along the wooded banks of the River Severn.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Shropshire. 👥 *2,900.*
🚆 *Telford then bus (Telford Travelink 01952 200005).* ℹ *Ironbridge town (01952 884391).* ○ *daily.*
● *1 Jan, 24, 25 Dec.*
Some sites closed Nov–Apr, call for details. ♿ *most sites.*
🎧 ✋ *by arrangement.*
☕ 🍴 🛍
www.ironbridge.org.uk

The Museum of Iron, topped by a cast- and wrought-iron clock

COALBROOKDALE MUSEUM OF IRON

The history of iron and the men who made it is traced in this remarkable museum. Abraham Darby I's discovery of how to smelt iron ore with coke allowed the mass production of iron, paving the way for the rise of large-scale industry. His original blast furnace forms the museum's centrepiece.

One of the museum's themes is the history of the Darby dynasty, a Quaker family who had a great impact on the Coalbrookdale community.

Ironbridge led the world in industrial innovation, producing the first iron wheels and cylinders for the first steam engine. Cast-iron statues, many of them commissioned for the 1851 Great Exhibition *(see pp56–7)*, are among the many Coalbrookdale Company products on display. They include a bronze figure of Andromeda and many sculptures of stags and hounds.

One of the Darby family's homes in the nearby village of Coalbrookdale, **Rosehill House** (open during the summer), has been furnished in mid-Victorian style.

MUSEUM OF THE GORGE

This partly castellated, Victorian building was a warehouse for storing products from the ironworks before they were shipped down the River Severn. The warehouse is now home to the Museum of the Gorge, and has displays illustrating the history of the Severn and the development of the water industry.

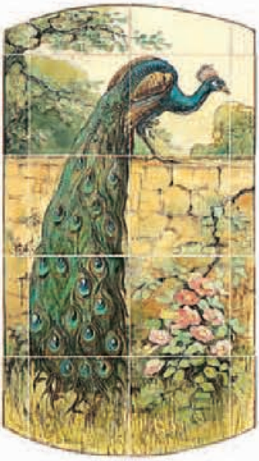
Until the arrival of the railways in the mid-19th century, the Severn was the main form of transport and communication to and from the Gorge. Sometimes too shallow, at other times in flood, the river was not a particularly reliable means of transportation; by the 1890s river trading had stopped completely.

The highlight of the museum is a wonderful 12 m (40 ft) model of the Gorge as it would have appeared in 1796, complete with foundries, cargo boats and growing villages.

***Europe* (1860), statue in the Museum of Iron**

JACKFIELD TILE MUSEUM

There have been potteries in this area since the 17th century, but it was not until the Victorian passion for decorative tiles that Jackfield became famous. There were two tile-making factories here – Maw and Craven Dunnill – that produced a tremendous variety of tiles from clay mined nearby.

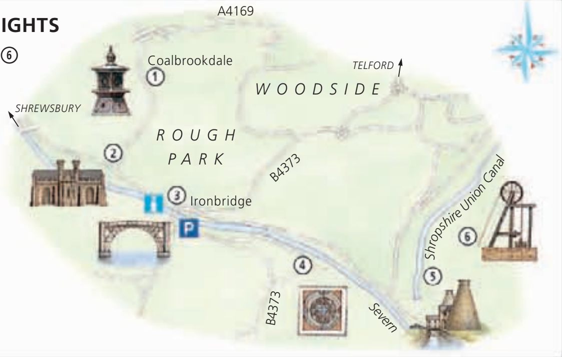


Peacock Panel (1928), one of the tile museum's star attractions

Talented designers created an astonishing range of images. The Jackfield Tile Museum, in the old Craven Dunnill works, has a collection of the decorative floor and wall tiles that were produced here from the 1850s to the 1960s. On certain days, visitors can watch small-scale demonstrations of traditional methods of tile-making in the old factory buildings, including the kilns and the decoration workshops.

IRONBRIDGE GORGE SIGHTS

- Blists Hill Victorian Town ⑥
- Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron ①
- Coalport China Museum ⑤
- Iron Bridge ③
- Jackfield Tile Museum ④
- Museum of the Gorge ②



COALPORT CHINA MUSEUM

In the mid-19th century the Coalport Works was one of the largest porcelain manufacturers in Britain, and its name was synonymous with fine china. The Coalport Company still makes porcelain but has long since moved its operations to Stoke-on-Trent *(see p311)*. Today the china workshops have been converted into a museum, where visitors can watch demonstrations of the various stages of making porcelain, including the skills of pot-throwing, painting and gilding. There is a superb collection of 19th-century china housed in one of the museum's distinctive bottle-shaped kilns.

Coalport China Museum with its bottle-shaped kiln

Nearby is the **Tar Tunnel**, an important source of natural bitumen discovered 110 m (360 ft) underground in the 1700s. It once yielded 20,500 litres (4,500 gal) of tar every week. Visitors can still explore part of the tunnel (Apr–Oct).

BLISTS HILL VICTORIAN TOWN

This enormous open-air museum recreates Victorian life in an Ironbridge Gorge town. A group of 19th-century buildings has been reconstructed on the 20 ha (50 acre) site of Blists Hill, an old coal mine that used to supply the ironworks in the Gorge. Here, people in period costume enact roles and perform tasks such as iron forging.

The site has period housing, a church and even a Victorian school. Visitors can change money into old coinage to buy items from the baker or even pay for a drink in the local pub.

The centrepiece of Blists Hill is a complete foundry that still produces wrought iron. One of the most spectacular sights is the Hay Inclined Plane, which was used to transport canal boats up and down a steep slope. Other attractions include steam engines, a saddlers, a doctors, a chemist, a candlemakers and a sweetshop.

THE IRON BRIDGE

Abraham Darby III (grandson of the first man to smelt iron with coke) cast the world's first iron bridge in 1779, revolutionizing building methods in the process. Spanning the Severn, the bridge is a monument to the ironmasters' skills. The toll-house on the south bank charts its construction.

Hereford ❽

Herefordshire. 👥 *50,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *King St (01432 268430).*
🛒 *Wed (cattle, general), Sat (general).*
www.visitherefordshire.co.uk

Hereford's 17th-century Old House, furnished in period style

Once the capital of the Saxon kingdom of West Mercia, Hereford is today an attractive town which serves the needs of a primarily rural community. A cattle market is held here every Wednesday, and local produce is sold at the covered market in the town centre. Almost opposite, the Jacobean timber-framed **Old House** of 1621 is now a museum of local history.

In the **cathedral**, only a short stroll away, interesting features include the Lady Chapel, in richly ornamented Early English style, the *Mappa Mundi* (see below) and the Chained Library, whose 1,500 books are tethered by iron chains to bookcases as a precaution against theft. The story of these national treasures is told through models, original artifacts and interactive computer technology. The best place for an overall view of the cathedral is at the Bishop's Meadow, south of the centre, leading down to the banks of the Wye.

Hereford's many rewarding museums include the **City Museum and Art Gallery**, noted for its Roman mosaic and for watercolours by local artists, and the **Cider Museum and King Offa Distillery**. In the museum, visitors can discover the history of traditional cider making. The King Offa Distillery, which is open for visits and tastings, is the first distillery licensed to produce cider brandy for 200 years.

Detail of figures on Kilpeck Church

Environs: During the 12th century, Oliver de Merlemond made a pilgrimage from Hereford to Spain. Impressed by several churches he saw on the way, he brought French masons over to England and introduced their techniques to this area. One result was **Kilpeck Church**, 6 miles (10 km) southwest, covered in lustful figures showing their genitals, and tail-biting dragons. At **Abbey Dore**, 4 miles (6 km) west, the Cistercian abbey church is complemented by the serene riverside gardens of **Abbey Dore Court**.

MEDIEVAL VIEW

Hereford Cathedral's most celebrated treasure is the *Mappa Mundi*, the Map of the World, drawn in 1290 by a clergyman, Richard of Haldingham. The world is depicted here on Biblical principles: Jerusalem is at the centre, the Garden of Eden figures prominently and monsters inhabit the margins of the world.

Central detail, *Mappa Mundi*

Old House
High Town. ***Tel*** *01432 260694.*
○ *Apr–Sep: Tue–Sun; Oct–Mar: Tue–Sat; public hols.* ● *25 & 26 Dec, 1 Jan, Good Fri.* ♿ *limited.* 🛍
www.herefordshire.gov.uk/museums

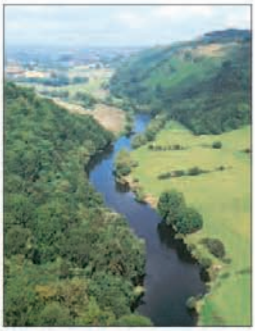
City Museum and Art Gallery
Broad St. ***Tel*** *01432 260692.* ○ *Apr–Sep: Tue–Sun; Oct–Mar: Tue–Sat, public hols.* ● *25 & 26 Dec, 1 Jan, Good Fri.* ♿ 🛍
www.herefordshire.gov.uk

Cider Museum and King Offa Distillery
Ryelands St. ***Tel*** *01432 354207.*
○ *Tue–Sat & public hols.*
● *25 & 26 Dec, 1 Jan.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🚩 *by arrangement.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.cidermuseum.co.uk

Ross-on-Wye ❾

Herefordshire. 👥 *10,000.* 🚌 ℹ
Edde Cross St (01989 562768). 🛒 *Thu, Sat; farmers' market 1st Fri of month.*
www.visitherefordshire.co.uk

The fine town of Ross sits on a cliff of red sandstone above the water meadows of the River Wye. There are wonderful views over the river from the cliff-top gardens,



The wooded Wye Valley near Ross

given to the town by a local benefactor, John Kyrle (1637–1724). Kyrle was lauded by the poet Alexander Pope (1688–1744) in his *Moral Essays on the Uses of Riches* (1732) for using his wealth in a practical way, and he came to be known as "The Man of Ross". There is a memorial to Kyrle in **St Mary's Church**.

Environs: From Hereford to Ross, the **Wye Valley Walk** follows 16 miles (26 km) of gentle countryside. From Ross it continues south for 33 miles (54 km), over rocky ground in deep, wooded ravines.

Goodrich Castle, 5 miles (8 km) south of Ross, is a 12th-century red sandstone fort on a rock above the river.

🏰 **Goodrich Castle**
(EH) Goodrich. ***Tel*** *01600 890538.*
🕒 *daily (Nov–Feb: Wed–Sun).* ♿ ☕
(Apr–Sep). **www**.english-heritage.org.uk

Ledbury ⑩

Herefordshire. 👥 *8,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *The Masters House (01531 636147).* **www**.visitledbury.co.uk

Ledbury's main street is lined with timbered houses, including the **Market Hall** which dates from 1655. Church Lane, a cobbled lane running up from the High Street, has lovely 16th-century buildings: the **Heritage Centre** and **Butcher Row House** are both now museums. **St Michael and All Angels Church** has a massive detached bell tower, ornate Early English decoration and interesting monuments.

Medieval tile from the Priory at Great Malvern

🏛 **Heritage Centre**
Church Lane. 🕒 *Easter–Oct: daily.* ♿

🏛 **Butcher Row House**
Church Lane. 🕒 *Easter–Oct: daily.*

Great Malvern and the Malverns ⑪

Worcestershire. 👥 *35,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *21 Church St (01684 892289).*
🛒 *Fri; farmers' market 3rd Sat of month.* **www**.malvernhills.gov.uk

The ancient granite rock of the Malvern Hills rises from the plain of the River Severn, its 9 miles (15 km) of glorious scenery visible from afar. Composer Sir Edward Elgar (1857–1934) wrote many of his greatest works here, including the oratorio *The Dream of Gerontius* (1900), inspired by what the diarist John Evelyn (1620–1706) described as "one of the goodliest views in England". Elgar's home was in **Little Malvern**, whose truncated Church of St Giles, set on a steep, wooded hill, lost its nave when the stone was stolen during the Dissolution *(see p339)*. **Great Malvern**, capital of the hills, is graced with 19th-century buildings which look like Swiss sanitoria: patients would stay at institutions such as Doctor Gulley's Water Cure Establishment. The water gushing from the hillside at St Ann's Well, above the town, is bottled and sold throughout Britain. The town is home to the famous Morgan cars (contact 01684 573104 to arrange a factory visit).

Malvern's highlight is the **Priory**, with its 15th-century stained-glass windows and medieval misericords. The old monastic fishponds below the church form the lake of the **Priory Park**. Here the theatre hosts performances of Elgar's music and plays by George Bernard Shaw.

A view of the Malverns range, formed of hard Pre-Cambrian rock

Worcester ⓬

Worcestershire. 👥 *95,000.*
🚆 🚌 ℹ *High St (01905 726311).*
🛒 *Mon–Sat.*
www.visitworcester.com

Worcester is one of many English cities whose character has been transformed by modern development. The architectural highlight remains the **cathedral**, off College Yard, which suffered a collapsed tower in 1175 and a disastrous fire in 1203, before the present structure was started in the 13th century.

The nave and central tower were completed in the 1370s, after building was severely interrupted by the Black Death, which decimated the labour force *(see p48)*. The most recent and ornate addition was made in 1874, when Sir George Gilbert Scott *(see p465)* designed the High Gothic choir, incorporating 14th-century carved misericords.

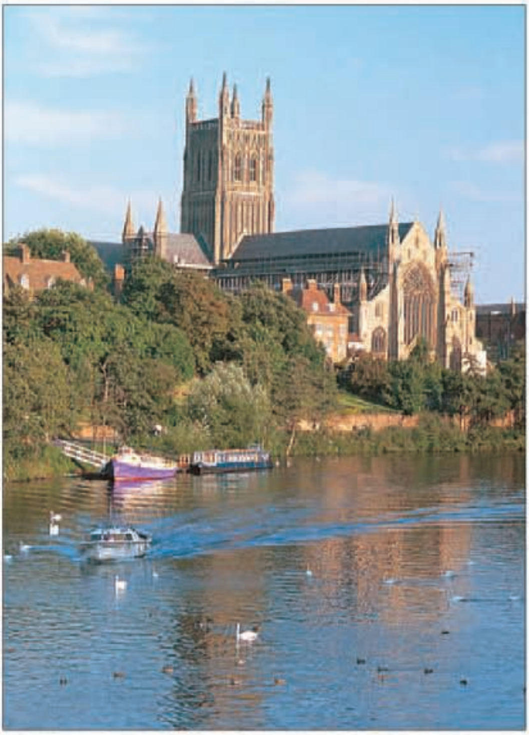
Charles I holding a symbol of the Church on Worcester's Guildhall

There are many interesting tombs, including King John's, a masterpiece of medieval carving, in front of the altar. Prince Arthur, Henry VIII's brother *(see p313)*, who died at the age of 15, is buried in the chantry chapel south of the altar. Underneath, the huge Norman crypt survives from the first cathedral (1084).

From the cathedral cloister, a gate leads to College Green and out into Edgar Street and its Georgian houses. Here the **Worcester Porcelain Museum** displays Royal Worcester porcelain dating back to 1751. On the High Street, north of the cathedral, the **Guildhall** of 1723 is adorned with statues of Stuart monarchs, reflecting the city's Royalist allegiances. In Cornmarket is **Ye Olde King Charles House**, in which Prince Charles, later Charles II, hid after the Battle of Worcester in 1651 *(see pp52–3)*.

Some of Worcester's finest timber buildings are found in Friar Street: **The Greyfriars**, built around 1480, has been restored in period style. The **Commandery** was originally an 11th-century hospital. It was rebuilt in the 15th century and used by Prince Charles as a base during the Civil War. Now a museum, it has a fine hammerbeam roof.

Elgar's Birthplace was the home of composer Sir Edward Elgar *(see p318)* and contains memorabilia of his life.



Worcester Cathedral, overlooking the River Severn

🏛 **Worcester Porcelain Museum**
Severn St. ***Tel*** *01905 21247.*
○ *Mon–Sat.* ● *25 Dec.* 📷 ♿
✋ 🍴 🛍

🏠 **The Greyfriars**
(NT) Friar St. ***Tel*** *01905 23571.*
○ *Mar–Dec: Wed–Sat; Jul & Aug: Wed–Sun & public hols.* 📷

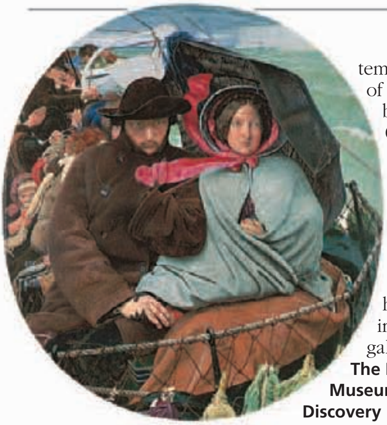
🏛 **Commandery**
Sidbury. ***Tel*** *01905 361821.*
○ *daily (Nov–Mar: Mon–Thu & Sat).* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* 🛍 📷

🏛 **Elgar's Birthplace**
Lower Broadheath. ***Tel*** *01905 333224.* ○ *daily.* ● *24 Dec–mid-Jan.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🛍
www.elgarfoundation.org

Birmingham ⓭

Birmingham. 👥 *1,000,000.*
✈ 🚆 🚌 ℹ *The Rotunda (0844 888 3883).* 🛒 *Mon–Sat.*
www.visitbirmingham.com

Brum, as it is affectionately known to its inhabitants, grew up as a major centre of the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century. A vast range of manufacturing trades was based in Birmingham and was responsible for the rapid development of grim factories and cramped housing. Since


***The Last of England*, Ford Madox Brown, Birmingham Art Gallery**

the clearance of several of these areas after World War II, Birmingham has raised its cultural profile. The city succeeded in enticing Sir Simon Rattle to conduct the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and persuaded the former Royal Sadler's Wells Ballet (now the Birmingham Royal Ballet) to leave London for the more up-to-date facilities of Birmingham. The **National Exhibition Centre**, 8 miles (13 km) east of the centre, draws thousands of people to its conference, lecture and exhibition halls.

Set away from the massive Bullring shopping centre, Birmingham's 19th-century civic buildings are excellent examples of Neo-Classical architecture. Among them are the **City Museum and Art Gallery**, where the collection includes outstanding works by pre-Raphaelite artists such as Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1833–98), who was born in Birmingham, and Ford Madox Brown (1821–93). The museum also organizes some interesting temporary exhibitions of art, such as works by J M W Turner (1775–1851).

Birmingham's extensive canal system is now used mainly for leisure boating *(see pp300–01)*, and several former warehouses have been converted into museums and galleries. **Thinktank – The Birmingham Museum of Science and Discovery** celebrates the city's contributions to the world of railway engines, aircraft, and the motor trade. The old jewellery quarter has practised its traditional crafts here since the 16th century.

Suburban Birmingham has many attractions, including the **Botanical Gardens** at Edgbaston, and **Cadbury World** at Bournville, where there is a visitor centre dedicated to chocolate (booking ahead is advisable). Bournville village was built in 1890 by the Cadbury brothers for their workers and is a pioneering example of a garden suburb.

🏛 City Museum and Art Gallery
Chamberlain Sq. ***Tel*** *0121 303 2834.* ○ *call for details.* ● *25 & 26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍

🏛 Thinktank
Millennium Point. ***Tel*** *0121 202 2222.* ○ *daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.*

🍁 Botanical Gardens
Westbourne Rd, Edgbaston. ***Tel*** *0121 454 1860.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🛍 ✋ ♿ ✋ *by appt.* 🍴

🏛 Cadbury World
Linden Rd, Bournville. ***Tel*** *0845 450 3599.* ○ *daily (Nov–Jan: call for details).* ● *first two weeks Jan.* ✋ ♿

Stately civic office buildings in Victoria Square, Birmingham

Coventry ⑭

Coventry. 👥 *300,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *Cathedral Tower (024 7622 7264).* ☐ *Mon–Sat.* **www**.coventryandwarwickshire.co.uk

As an armaments centre, Coventry was a prime target for German bombing raids in World War II, and in 1940 the **cathedral** in the city centre was hit. After the war the first totally modern cathedral by Sir Basil Spence (1907–76) was built alongside the ruins. It includes sculptures by Sir Jacob Epstein and a tapestry by Graham Sutherland.

Epstein's *St Michael Subduing the Devil*, on Coventry Cathedral

The **Herbert Gallery and Museum** has displays on the 11th-century legend of Lady Godiva, who rode naked through the streets. The **Coventry Transport Museum** has the largest collection of Britain's road transport in the world, including cars, cycles and models, and features the fastest car in the world as well as interactive displays.

🏛 Herbert Gallery and Museum
Jordan Well. ***Tel*** *024 7683 2386.* ○ *daily (Sun: pm) 1 Jan.* ☕ 🛍

🏛 Coventry Transport Museum
Hales St. ***Tel*** *024 7623 4270.* ○ *daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.transport-museum.com

Midlands Garden Tour ⓯

Plum tree in blossom

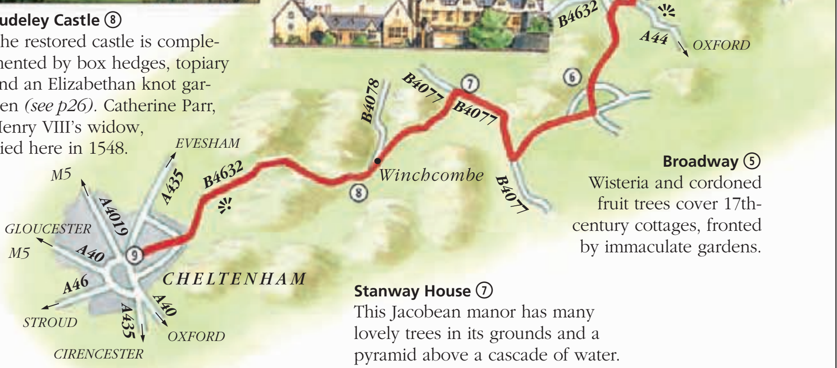
The charming Cotswold stone buildings perfectly complement the lush gardens for which the region is famous. This picturesque route from Warwick to Cheltenham is designed to show every type of garden, from tiny cottage plots, brimming with bell-shaped flowers and hollyhocks, to the deer-filled, landscaped parks of stately homes. The route follows the escarpment of the Cotswold Hills, taking in spectacular scenery and some of the prettiest Midlands villages on the way.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Tour length: *35 miles (50 km).*
Stopping-off points: *Hidcote Manor has excellent lunches and teas; there are refreshments at Kiftsgate Court and Sudeley Castle. Travellers will find a good choice in Broadway, from traditional pubs and tea shops to the de luxe Lygon Arms.* (See also pp684–5.)

Cheltenham Imperial Gardens ⑨
These colourful public gardens on the Promenade were laid out in 1817–18 to encourage people to walk from the town to the spa *(see p328).*

Sudeley Castle ⑧
The restored castle is complemented by box hedges, topiary and an Elizabethan knot garden *(see p26).* Catherine Parr, Henry VIII's widow, died here in 1548.


EVESHAM
A44
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B4035
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A44
OXFORD
B4632
⑥
⑦
B4077
B4078
B4077
Winchcombe
⑧
B4077
EVESHAM
B4632
A435
M5
A4019
GLOUCESTER
M5
A40
⑨
A46
CHELTENHAM
A40
STROUD
A435
OXFORD
CIRENCESTER

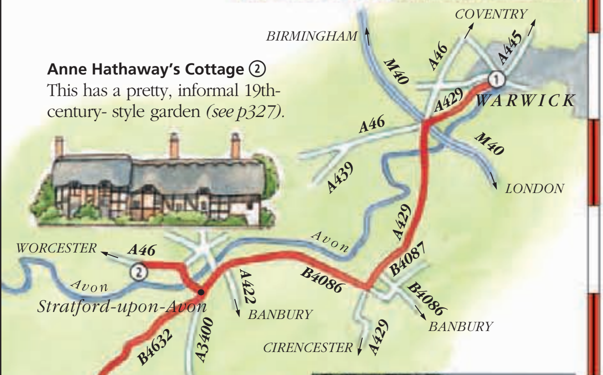
Broadway ⑤
Wisteria and cordoned fruit trees cover 17th-century cottages, fronted by immaculate gardens.

Stanway House ⑦
This Jacobean manor has many lovely trees in its grounds and a pyramid above a cascade of water.

Snowshill Manor ⑥
This Cotswold stone manor contains an extraordinary collection, from bicycles to Japanese armour. There are walled gardens and terraces full of *objets d'art* such as the clock (left). The colour blue is a recurrent theme.

Warwick Castle ①
The castle's gardens *(see pp322–3)* include the Mound, planted in medieval style, with grass, oaks, yew trees and box hedges.

Anne Hathaway's Cottage ②
This has a pretty, informal 19th-century- style garden *(see p327)*.



Hidcote Manor Gardens ③
Started in the early years of the last century, these beautiful gardens pioneered the idea of a garden as a series of outdoor "rooms", enclosed by high yew hedges and planted according to themes.

Kiftsgate Court Garden ④
This charmingly naturalistic garden lies opposite Hidcote Manor. It has many rare and unusual plants on a series of hillside terraces, including the enormous "Kiftsgate" Rose, nearly 30 m (100 ft) high.

KEY

🟦	Motorway
🟥	Tour route
═	Other roads
✳	Viewpoint

0 kilometres 5

0 miles 5

Warwick ⓰

Warwickshire. 👥 *28,000.*
🚉 🚌 ℹ *The Courthouse, Jury St (01926 492212).* ⛺ *Sat.*
www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Warwick suffered a major fire in 1694, but some medieval buildings survived. **St John's House Museum** in St John's is a charming Jacobean mansion housing reconstructions of a Victorian parlour, kitchen and classroom. At the west end of the High Street, a row of medieval guild buildings were transformed in 1571 by the Earl of Leicester, who founded the **Lord Leycester Hospital** as a refuge for his old soldiers.

The arcaded **Market Hall** (1670) is part of the Warwickshire Museum, renowned for its unusual tapestry map of the county, woven in 1558.

In Church Street, to the south of St Mary's Church, is the **Beauchamp Chapel** (1443–64). It is a superb example of Perpendicular architecture and has tombs of the Earls of Warwick. There is a view of **Warwick Castle** *(see pp322–3)* from St Mary's tower.

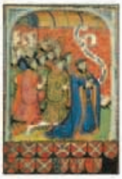
🏛 St John's House Museum
St John's. ***Tel*** *01926 412132.*
○ *Tue–Sat.* ♿ *limited.*

🏛 Lord Leycester Hospital
High St. ***Tel*** *01926 491422.* ○ *Tue–Sun & public hols.* ● *Good Fri, 25 Dec.* **Gardens** ○ *same as house but Easter–Sep only.* 🚫 ☕ ♿ *ltd.* 🛍

🏛 Market Hall
Market Place. ***Tel*** *01926 412500.*
○ *Tue–Sat (May–Sep: Tue–Sun).*
♿ *limited.* 🛍

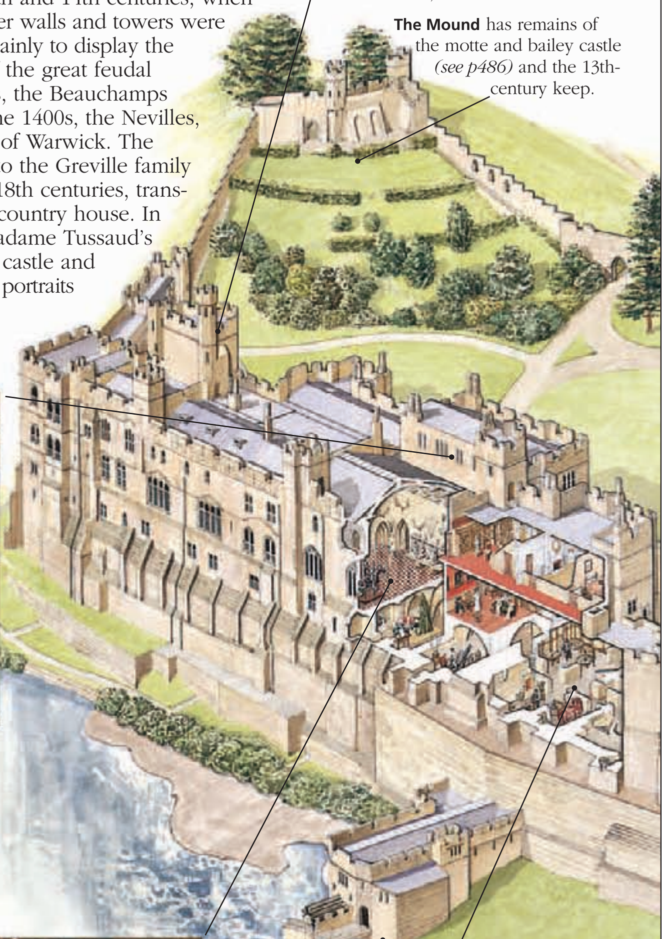
The Lord Leycester Hospital, now a home for ex-servicemen

Warwick Castle



Neville family at prayer (c.1460)

Warwick's magnificent castle is the finest medieval fortress in the country. The original Norman castle was rebuilt in the 13th and 14th centuries, when huge outer walls and towers were added, mainly to display the power of the great feudal magnates, the Beauchamps and, in the 1400s, the Nevilles, the Earls of Warwick. The castle passed in 1604 to the Greville family who, in the 17th and 18th centuries, transformed it into a great country house. In 1978 the owners of Madame Tussaud's *(see p104)* bought the castle and set up tableaux of wax portraits to illustrate its history.



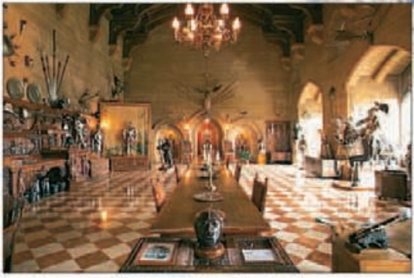
The Ghost Tower is where the ghost of Sir Fulke Greville, murdered in London by a servant in 1628, is said to walk.

The Mound has remains of the motte and bailey castle *(see p486)* and the 13th-century keep.

The Mill and Engine House

Royal Weekend Party

The portrait of the valet is part of the award-winning exhibition of the Prince of Wales's visit in 1898.

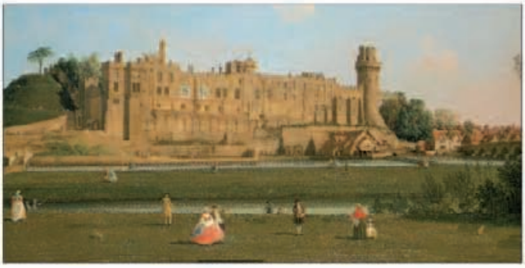


★ Great Hall and State Rooms

Medieval apartments were transformed into the Great Hall and State Rooms. A mark of conspicuous wealth, they display a collection of family treasures from around the world.

Kingmaker Attraction

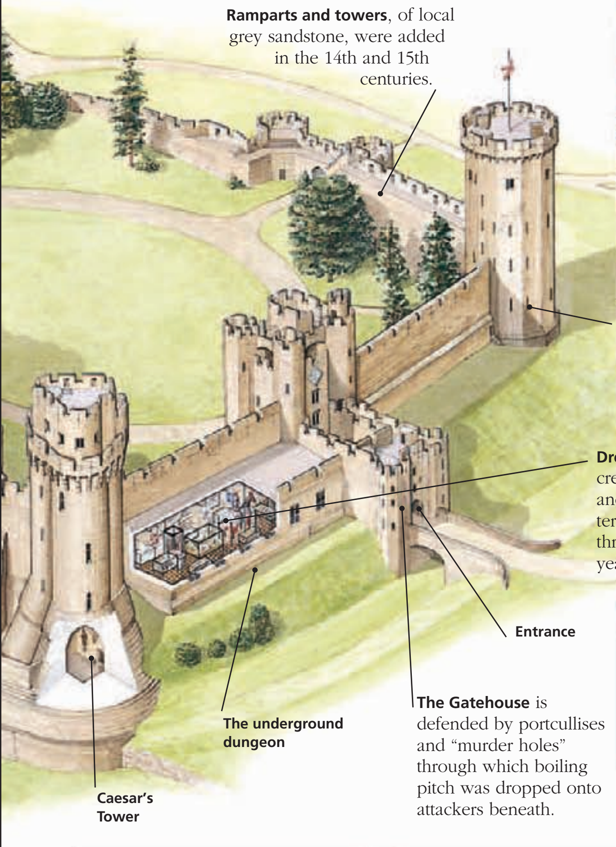
Dramatic displays recreate medieval life as "Warwick the Kingmaker", Richard Neville, prepared for battle in the Wars of the Roses.



View of Warwick Castle, south front, by Antonio Canaletto (1697–1768)

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Castle Lane, Warwick. ***Tel** 0870 4422000. ○ Apr–Sep: 10am–6pm daily; Oct–Mar: 10am–5pm daily (last adm: 30 mins before closing). ● 25 Dec. 🎟 📷 ♿ limited. 🎧 🍴 ☕ 🛍*



Ramparts and towers, of local grey sandstone, were added in the 14th and 15th centuries.

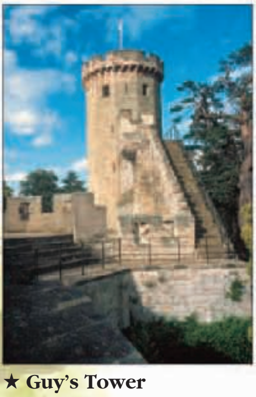
Dream of Battle Show creates the drama, noise and adrenaline-charged terror of medieval battle through the dreams of 14-year-old Squire William.

Entrance

The Gatehouse is defended by portcullises and "murder holes" through which boiling pitch was dropped onto attackers beneath.

The underground dungeon

Caesar's Tower



★ Guy's Tower

Completed around 1393, the tower had lodgings for guests and members of the Earl of Warwick's retinue.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Great Hall and State Rooms
- ★ Guy's Tower

TIMELINE

1068 Norman motte and bailey castle built

1264 Simon de Montfort, champion of Parliament against Henry III, attacks Warwick Castle

Richard Neville

Shield (1745)

1478 Castle reverts to Crown after murder of Richard Neville's son-in-law

1890s–1910 Visits from future Edward VII

1000 1200 1400 1600 1800

1268–1445 Much of the present castle built by the Beauchamp family, Earls of Warwick

1449–1471 Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, plays leading role in Wars of the Roses

1604 James I gives castle to Sir Fulke Greville

1642 Siege of the Castle of Royalist Troops

1600–1800 Interiors remodelled and gardens landscaped

1871 Fire damages the Great Hall

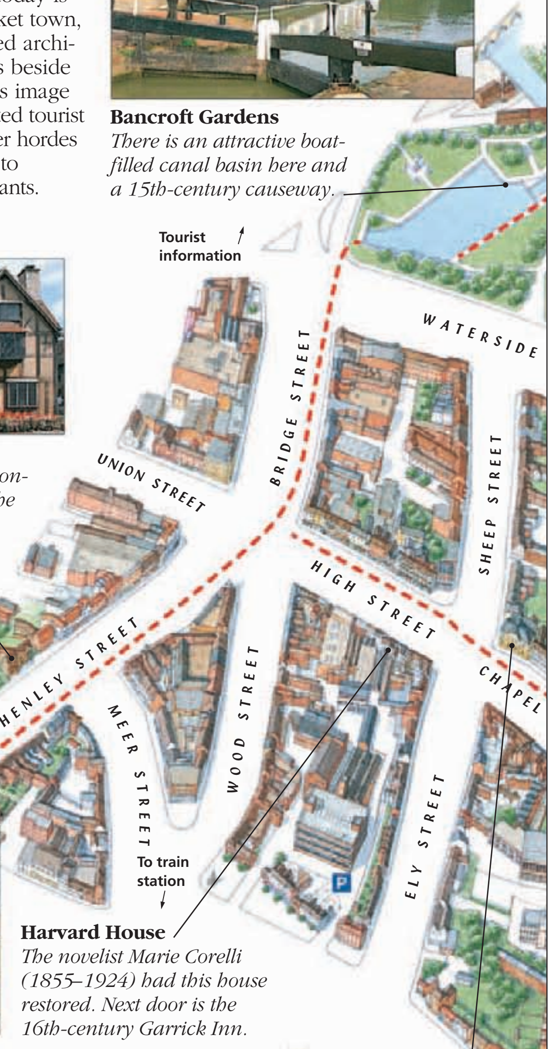
Street-by-Street: Stratford-upon-Avon ⑰

A 1930s jester

Situated on the west bank of the River Avon, in the heart of the Midlands, is one of the most famous towns in England. Stratford-upon-Avon dates back to at least Roman times but its appearance today is that of a small Tudor market town, with mellow, half-timbered architecture and tranquil walks beside the tree-fringed Avon. This image belies its popularity as the most visited tourist attraction outside London, with eager hordes flocking to see buildings connected to William Shakespeare or his descendants.

Bancroft Gardens
There is an attractive boat-filled canal basin here and a 15th-century causeway.

★ Shakespeare's Birthplace
This building was almost entirely reconstructed in the 19th century, but in the style of the Tudor original.


Tourist information
WATERSIDE
BRIDGE STREET
UNION STREET
SHEEP STREET
HIGH STREET
HENLEY STREET
CHAPEL
MEER STREET
WOOD STREET
ELY STREET
To train station
P

0 metres 100
0 yards 100

Shakespeare Centre

Harvard House
The novelist Marie Corelli (1855–1924) had this house restored. Next door is the 16th-century Garrick Inn.

Town Hall
Built in 1767, there are traces of 18th-century graffiti on the front of the building saying God Save the King.

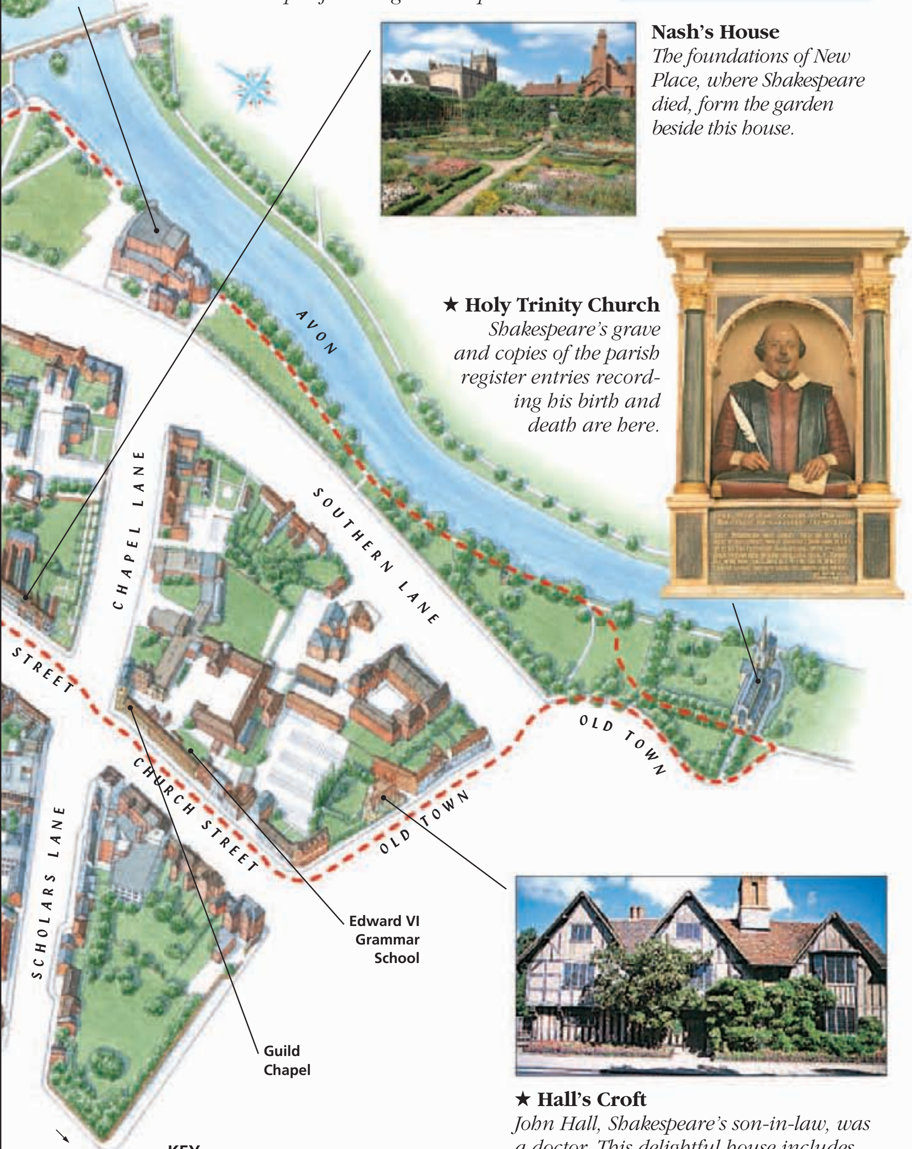
STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Shakespeare's Birthplace
- ★ Hall's Croft
- ★ Holy Trinity Church

Royal Shakespeare Theatre and Swan Theatre
Home of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), the Swan Theatre has been revamped following redevelopment.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Warwickshire. 👥 *22,000.* ✈ *20 miles (32 km) NW of Stratford-upon-Avon.* 🚆 *Alcester Rd.* 🚌 *Bridge St.* ℹ *Bridgefoot* ***Tel*** *0870 160 7930.* 🛒 *Fri.* 🎪 *Shakespeare's Birthday: Apr; Stratford Festival: Jul.* **www**.shakespeare-country.co.uk



Nash's House
The foundations of New Place, where Shakespeare died, form the garden beside this house.

★ Holy Trinity Church
Shakespeare's grave and copies of the parish register entries recording his birth and death are here.

Edward VI Grammar School

Guild Chapel

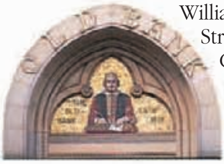
★ Hall's Croft
John Hall, Shakespeare's son-in-law, was a doctor. This delightful house includes an exhibition of medicine in Shakespeare's time.

Anne Hathaway's Cottage

KEY

- - - Suggested route

Exploring Stratford-upon-Avon



Mosaic of Shakespeare on the beautiful Old Bank (1810)

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon on St George's Day, 23 April 1564. Admirers of his work have been coming to the town since his death in 1616. In 1847 a public appeal successfully raised the money to buy the house in which he was born. As a result Stratford has become a literary shrine to Britain's greatest dramatist. It also has a thriving cultural reputation as the provincial home of the prestigious Royal Shakespeare Company, whose dramas are usually performed in Stratford before playing a second season in London *(see pp152–3).*

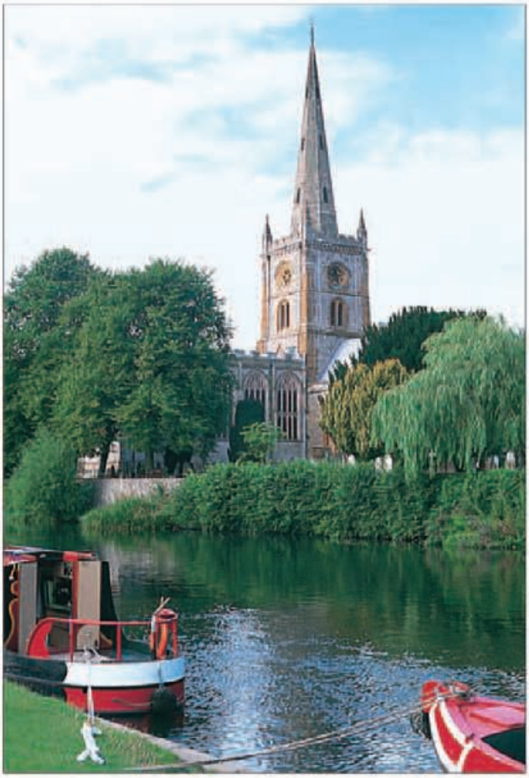
Anne Hathaway's Cottage, home of Shakespeare's wife

Around Stratford

The centre of Stratford-upon-Avon has many buildings that are connected with William Shakespeare and his descendants. On the High Street corner is the **Cage**, a 15th-century prison. It was converted into a house where Shakespeare's daughter Judith lived, and is now a shop. At the end of the High Street, the **Town Hall** has a statue of Shakespeare on the façade given by David Garrick (1717–79), the actor who in 1769 organized the first Shakespeare festival.

The High Street leads into Chapel Street where the half-timbered **Nash's House** is a museum of local history. It is also the site of **New Place**, where Shakespeare died in 1616, and which is now a herb and knot garden *(see p26)*. In Church Street opposite, the **Guild Chapel** (1496) has a *Last Judgement* painting (c.1500) on the chancel wall. Shakespeare is thought to have attended the **Edward VI Grammar School** (above the former Guildhall) next door.

A left turn into Old Town leads to **Hall's Croft**, home of Shakespeare's daughter Susanna, which displays 16th- and 17th-century medical artefacts. An avenue of lime trees leads to **Holy Trinity Church**, where Shakespeare is buried. A walk along the river follows the Avon to **Bancroft Gardens**, which lies at the junction of the River Avon and the Stratford Canal.



Holy Trinity Church, seen across the River Avon

🏛 Shakespeare's Birthplace

Henley St. ***Tel*** *01789 204016.* ○ *daily.* ● *23–26 Dec.* ♿ *limited.* 🛍 **www**.shakespeare.org.uk

Bought for the nation in 1847, when it was a public house, Shakespeare's Birthplace was converted back to Elizabethan style. Objects associated with Shakespeare's father, John, a glovemaker and wool merchant, are on display. There is a birth room, in which Shakespeare was supposedly born, and another room has a window etched with visitors' autographs, including that of Sir Walter Scott *(see p512).*

🏛 Harvard House
High St. ***Tel** 01789 204507.*
○ *May, Jun & Sep: Fri–Sun; Jul & Aug: Wed–Sun.* ♿

Built in 1596, this ornate house was the home of Katherine Rogers, whose son, John Harvard, emigrated to America and in 1638 left his estate to a new college, later renamed Harvard University. The house contains a Museum of British Pewter and displays relating to John Harvard.

Environs: At Shottery, 1 mile (1.5 km) west of Stratford, is **Anne Hathaway's Cottage**, home of Shakespeare's wife before their marriage *(see p321)*. Also worth a visit is **Mary Arden's Farm** in Wilmcote, home of Shakespeare's grandparents and childhood home of his mother, Mary Arden.

🏛 Anne Hathaway's Cottage
Cottage Lane. ***Tel** 01789 292100.*
○ *daily.* ● *23–26 Dec.* ♿ 🛍

🏛 Mary Arden's Farm
Station Rd. ***Tel** 01789 293455.*
○ *Mar–Oct: daily.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.shakespeare.org.uk

Kenneth Branagh in *Hamlet*

THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

The Royal Shakespeare Company is renowned for its new interpretations of Shakespeare's work. The company performs at the 1932 Royal Shakespeare Theatre, a windowless brick building adjacent to the Swan Theatre, built in 1986 to a design based on an Elizabethan playhouse. Next to it is a building displaying sets, props and costumes. The RSC also performs at the 150-seat theatre, known as the Other Place, and in London *(see pp152–3)*.

Grevel House, the oldest house in Chipping Campden

Chipping Campden ⑱

Gloucestershire. 👥 *2,500.*
ℹ *High St (01386 841206).*
www.visitchippingcampden.com

This perfect Cotswold town is kept in pristine condition by the Campden Trust. Set up in 1929, the Trust has kept alive the traditional skills of stonecarving and repair that make Chipping Campden such a unified picture of golden-coloured and lichen-patched stone. Visitors travelling from the northwest along the B4035 first see a group of ruins: the remains of **Campden Manor**, begun around 1613 by Sir Baptist Hicks, 1st Viscount Campden. The manor was burned by Royalist troops to stop it being sequestered by Parliament at the end of the Civil War *(see pp52–3)*, but the almshouses opposite the gateway were spared. They were designed in the form of the letter "I" (which is Latin for "J"), a symbol of the owner's loyalty to King James I.

The town's **Church of St James**, one of the finest in the Cotswolds, was built in the 15th century, financed by merchants who bought wool from Cotswold farmers and exported it at a high profit. Inside the church there are many elaborate tombs, and a magnificent brass dedicated to William Grevel, describing him as "the flower of the wool merchants of England". He built **Grevel House** (c.1380) in the High Street, the oldest in a fine row of buildings, which is distinguished by a double-storey bay window.

Viscount Campden donated the **Market Hall** in 1627. His contemporary, Robert Dover, founded in 1612 the "Cotswold Olimpicks", long before the modern Olympic Games had been established. The 1612 version included such painful events as the shin-kicking contest. It still takes place on the first Friday after each Spring Bank Holiday, followed by a torchlit procession into town ready for the Scuttlebrook Wake Fair on the next day. The setting for the games is a spectacular natural hollow on **Dover's Hill** above the town, worth climbing on a clear day for the marvellous views over the Vale of Evesham.

The 17th-century Market Hall in Chipping Campden

Tewkesbury's abbey church overlooks the town, crowded onto the bank of the River Severn

Tewkesbury ⑲

Gloucestershire. 👥 *11,000.*
ℹ *Church St (01684 855040).*
🛒 *Wed, Sat.* **www**.visitcotswoldsandsevernvale.gov.uk

This lovely town sits on the confluence of the rivers Severn and Avon. It has one of England's finest Norman abbey churches, **St Mary the Virgin**, which locals saved during the Dissolution of the Monasteries *(see p50)* by paying Henry VIII £453. Around the church, with its bulky tower and Norman façade, timbered buildings are crammed within the bend of the river. Warehouses are a reminder of past wealth, and Borough Mill on Quay Street, the only mill left harnessed to the river's energy, still grinds corn.

Pump Room detail, Cheltenham

Environs: Boat trips run from the river to **Twyning**'s riverside pub, 6 miles (10 km) north.

Cheltenham ⑳

Gloucestershire. 👥 *107,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *77 Promenade (01242 522878).*
🛒 *Sun; farmers' market 2nd & last Fri of month.* **www**.visitcheltenham.com

Cheltenham's reputation for elegance was first gained in the late 18th century, when high society flocked to the spa town to "take the waters", following the example set by George III *(see pp54–5)*. Many gracious terraced houses were built, in a Neo-Classical style, along broad avenues. These survive around the Queen's Hotel, near **Montpellier**, a lovely Regency arcade lined with craft and antique shops, and in the **Promenade**, with its smart department stores and couturiers. A more modern atmosphere prevails in the Regency Arcade, where the star attraction is the 1987 **clock** by Kit Williams: visit on the hour to see fish blowing bubbles over the onlookers' heads.

The **Museum and Art Gallery** is worth a visit to see its unusual collection of furniture and other crafts made by members of the influential Arts and Crafts Movement *(see p29)*, whose strict principles of utilitarian design were laid down by William Morris *(see p220)*.

The **Pittville Pump Room** (1825–30), modelled on the Greek Temple of Ilissos in Athens, is frequently used for performances during the town's renowned annual festivals of music (July) and literature (October).

The event that really attracts the crowds is the Cheltenham Gold Cup – the premier event of the National Hunt season – held in March *(see p66)*.

🏛 Museum and Art Gallery

Clarence St. ***Tel** 01242 237431.*
○ *Mon–Sat.* ● *1 Jan, 25 Dec & public hols.* ♿ *by arrangement.*
☕ 🛍 **www**.cheltenhammuseum.org.uk

🏛 Pittville Pump Room

Pittville Park. ***Tel** 01242 5762210.*
○ *Wed–Mon.* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec, public hols & frequently for functions: call to check.* ♿
www.pittvillepumproom.org.uk

Fantasy clock, by Kit Williams, in Cheltenham's Regency Arcade

Gloucester Cathedral's nave

Gloucester ㉑

Gloucestershire. 👥 *110,000.*
🚆 🚌 ℹ *28 Southgate St (01452 396572).* ⊖ *Wed, Sat.*
www.visitgloucester.info

Gloucester has played a prominent role in the history of England. It was here that William the Conqueror ordered a vast survey of all the land in his kingdom, that was to be recorded in the *Domesday Book* of 1086 *(see p48).*

The city was popular with the Norman monarchs and in 1216 Henry III was crowned in its magnificent **cathedral**. The solid, dignified nave was begun in 1089. Edward II *(see p439),* who was murdered in 1327 at Berkeley Castle, 14 miles (22 km) to the southwest, is buried in a tomb near the high altar. Many pilgrims came to honour Edward's tomb, leaving behind generous donations, and Abbot Thoky was able to begin rebuilding in 1331. The result was the wonderful east window and the cloisters, where the fan vault was developed and then copied in other churches all over the country.

The impressive buildings around the cathedral include College Court, with its **House of the Tailor of Gloucester** museum, in the house that the children's author Beatrix Potter used as the setting *(see p367)* for her illustrations of that story. A museum complex has been created in the **Gloucester Docks**, part of which is still a port, linked to the Bristol Channel by the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal (opened in 1827). In the old port, and housed in a Victorian warehouse, the **National Waterways Museum** relates the history of canals. A gallery called Move It looks at how canals were built.

🏛 House of the Tailor of Gloucester
College Court. ***Tel*** *01452 422856.*
○ *Mon–Sat (Sun: pm only).*
● *public hols.* 🛍

🏛 National Waterways Museum
Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester Docks. ***Tel*** *01452 318200.*
○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.*
🛍 ♿ ☕
www.nwm.org.uk

Cirencester ㉒

Gloucestershire. 👥 *20,000.* 🚌
ℹ *Market Place (01285 654180).*
⊖ *Mon, Tue (cattle) & Fri.*
www.cotswold.gov.uk

Known as the capital of the Cotswolds, Cirencester has as its focus a market place, where there is a market every Monday and Friday. Overlooking the market is the **Church of St John Baptist**, whose "wine-glass" pulpit (1515) is one of the few pre-Reformation pulpits to survive in England. To the west, **Cirencester Park** was laid out by the 1st Earl of Bathurst from 1714, with help from the poet Alexander Pope *(see p317).* The mansion is surrounded by a massive yew hedge. Clustering round the park entrance are the 17th- and 18th-century wool merchants' houses of Cecily Hill, built in grand Italianate style. Much humbler Cotswold houses are to be found in Coxwell Street, and underlying this is a Roman town, evidence of which emerges whenever the ground is dug.

The **Corinium Museum**, since its renovation in 2004, is a must-see site. It features excavated objects in a series of tableaux illustrating life in a Roman household.

Cirencester Park
Cirencester Park. ***Tel*** *01285 653135.* ○ *daily.* ♿
www.cirencesterpark.co.uk

🏛 Corinium Museum
Park St. ***Tel*** *01285 655611.*
○ *daily (Sun pm only).* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.cotswold.gov.uk

Cirencester's fine parish church, one of the largest in England

ART AND NATURE IN THE ROMAN WORLD

Cirencester was an important centre of mosaic production in Roman days. Fine examples of the local style are shown in the Corinium Museum and mosaics range from Classical subjects, such as Orpheus taming lions and tigers with the music of his lyre, to the naturalistic depiction of a hare. At Chedworth Roman Villa, 8 miles (13 km) north, mosaics are inspired by real life. In the *Four Seasons* mosaic, *Winter* shows a peasant, dressed in a woollen hood and a wind-blown cloak, clutching a recently caught hare in one hand and a branch for fuel in the other.

Hare mosaic, Corinium Museum

EAST MIDLANDS

DERBYSHIRE · LEICESTERSHIRE · LINCOLNSHIRE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE · NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Three very different kinds of landscape greet visitors to the East Midlands. In the west, wild moors rise to the craggy heights of the Peak District. These give way to the low-lying plain and the massive industrial towns at the region's heart. In the east, hills and limestone villages stretch to a long, flat seaboard.

The East Midlands owes much of its character to a conjunction of the pastoral with the urban. The spa resorts, historical villages and stately homes coexist within a landscape shaped by industrialization. Throughout the region there are swathes of scenic countryside – and grimy industrial cities.

The area has been settled since prehistoric times. The Romans mined lead and salt, and they built a large network of roads and fortresses. Anglo-Saxon and Viking influence is found in many of the place names. During the Middle Ages profits from the wool industry enabled the development of towns such as Lincoln, which still has many fine old buildings. The East Midlands was the scene of ferocious battles during the Wars of the Roses and the Civil War, and insurgents in the Jacobite Rebellion reached as far as Derby.

In the west of the region is the Peak District, Britain's first national park. Created in 1951, it draws crowds in search of the wild beauty of the heather-covered moors, or the wooded dales of the River Dove. The peaks are very popular with rock climbers and hikers.

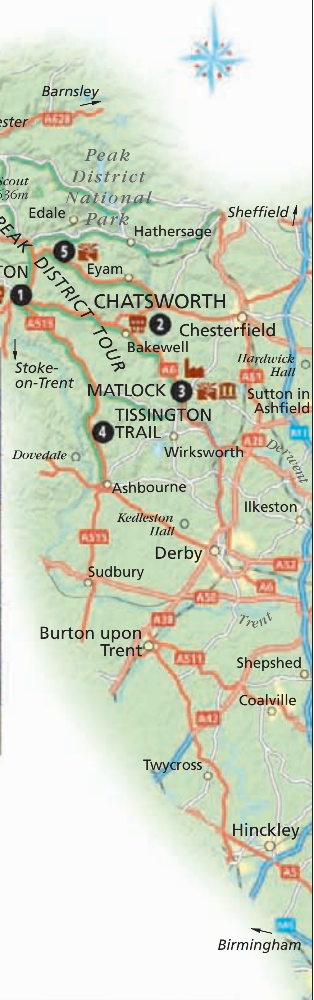
The eastern edge of the Peaks descends through stone-walled meadows to sheltered valleys. The Roman spa of Buxton adds a final note of elegance before the flatlands of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire are reached. An area of coal mines and factories since the late 18th century, the landscape has been transformed, as part of a ten-year-long project, into The National Forest.

Well-dressing dance, an ancient custom at Stoney Middleton in the Peak District

◁ **West front of Chatsworth House, a superb Baroque stately home in the Peak District**

Exploring the East Midlands

The East Midlands is a popular tourist destination, easily accessible by road, but best explored on foot. Numerous well-marked trails pass through the Peak District National Park. There are superb country houses at Chatsworth and Burghley and the impressive historic towns of Lincoln and Stamford to discover.


Barnsley
Manchester
A628
Kinder Scout 636m
Peak District National Park
Edale
Sheffield
A6
Hathersage
PEAK DISTRICT TOUR
5
Eyam
BUXTON
1
CHATSWORTH
A515
2
Chesterfield
Bakewell
Stoke-on-Trent
Hardwick Hall
A61
MATLOCK
3
Sutton in Ashfield
TISSINGTON TRAIL
4
Wirksworth
Derwent
Dovedale
Ashbourne
Ilkeston
Kedleston Hall
A515
Derby
A52
A6
Sudbury
A50
Trent
A38
Burton upon Trent
A511
Shepshed
Coalville
A42
Twycross
Hinckley
A5
Birmingham

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Burghley pp342–3 ⑧
Buxton ①
Chatsworth pp334–5 ②
Lincoln pp340–41 ⑦
Matlock Bath ③
Northampton ⑩
Nottingham ⑥
Stamford ⑨

Walks and Tours

Peak District Tour ⑤
Tissington Trail ④

View of Burghley House from the north courtyard

GETTING AROUND

The M6, M1 and A1 are the principal road routes to the East Midlands, but they are subject to frequent delays because of the volume of traffic they carry. It can be faster and more interesting to find cross-country routes to the region, for example through the attractive countryside and villages around Stamford and Northampton. Roads in the Peak District become very congested during the summer and an early start to the day is advisable. Lincoln and Stamford are well served by fast mainline trains from London. Rail services in the Peak District are far more limited, but local lines run as far as Matlock and Buxton.

SEE ALSO

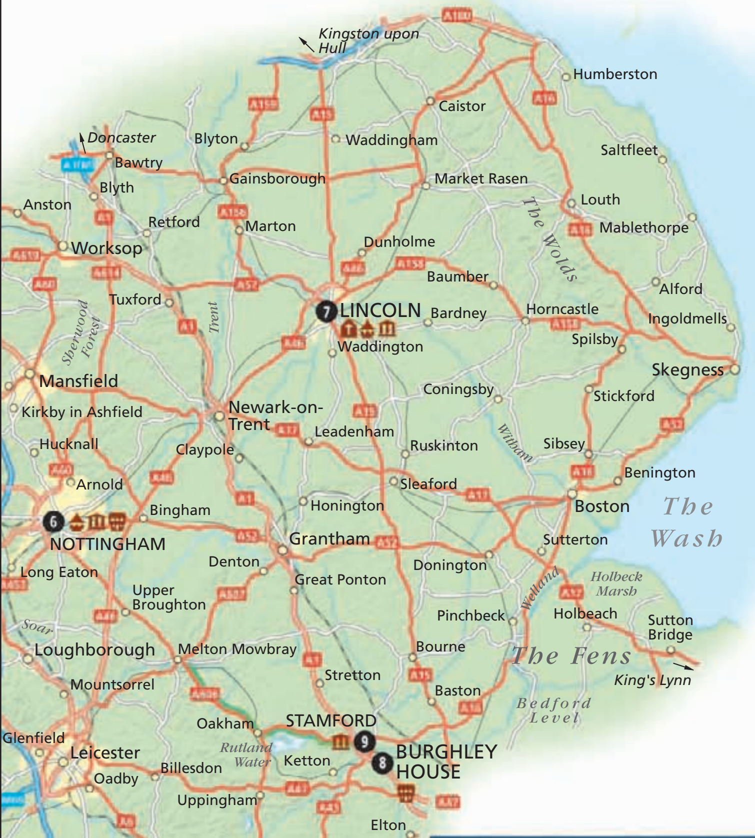
- ***Where to Stay*** pp581–2
- ***Where to Eat*** pp632–4

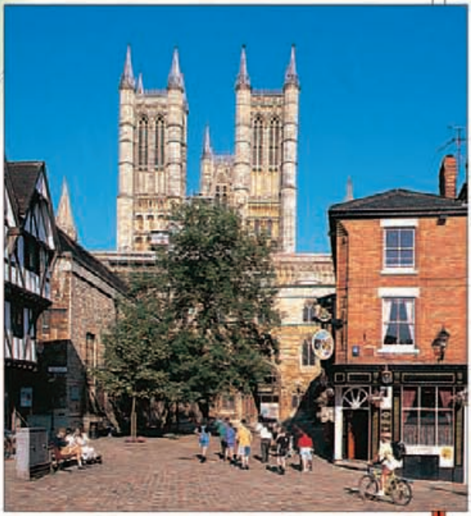
KEY

- Motorway
- Major road
- Secondary road
- Minor road
- Scenic route
- Main railway
- Minor railway
- ▲ Summit

Peak District countryside seen from the Tissington Trail

For additional map symbols *see back flap*


Kingston upon Hull
A180
Humberston
A159
A15
Caistor
A16
Doncaster
Blyton
Waddingham
Saltfleet
Bawtry
A1(M)
Gainsborough
Market Rasen
Blyth
The Wolds
Louth
Anston
A1
Retford
A156
Marton
A16
Mablethorpe
Dunholme
A619
Worksop
A614
A46
A158
Baumber
A60
A57
Alford
Tuxford
Trent
7
LINCOLN
Bardney
Horncastle
Ingoldmells
Sherwood Forest
A1
A46
Waddington
A158
Spilsby
Mansfield
Skegness
Coningsby
Stickford
Kirkby in Ashfield
Newark-on-Trent
A15
A17
Leadenham
Witham
A52
Hucknall
Claypole
Ruskinton
Sibsey
A60
A46
A16
Benington
Arnold
Sleaford
A17
A1
Honington
Boston
The Wash
Bingham
6
NOTTINGHAM
A52
Grantham
A52
Sutterton
Denton
Donington
Long Eaton
Great Ponton
Welland
A17
Holbeck Marsh
A453
Upper Broughton
A607
Pinchbeck
Holbeach
Sutton Bridge
A6
Soar
Loughborough
Melton Mowbray
A1
Bourne
The Fens
Stretton
A15
King's Lynn
Mountsorrel
A606
Baston
Bedford Level
A16
Oakham
STAMFORD
9
Glenfield
Rutland Water
8
BURGHLEY HOUSE
Leicester
Billesdon
Ketton
Oadby
A47
Uppingham
A47
A43
A6
Elton
Market Harborough
Corby
M1
A4304
Oundle
A605
Swinford
A14
Kettering
Thrapston
Rugby
A14
Crick
A509
A43
A6
Cambridge
M6
Wellingborough
A45
Rushden
A45
Wollaston
Daventry
10
NORTHAMPTON
Grand Union Canal
Roade
M1
Milton Keynes
0 kilometres 15
0 miles 15



Lincoln Cathedral towering over half-timbered buildings

Buxton Opera House, a late 19th-century building restored in 1979

Buxton ❶

Derbyshire. 👥 *20,000.* 🚉 🚌
ℹ *Pavilion Gardens (01298 25106).*
🛒 *Tue, Sat.* **www**.highpeak.gov.uk

Buxton was developed as a spa town by the 5th Duke of Devonshire during the late 18th century. It has many fine Neo-Classical buildings, including the **Devonshire Royal Hospital** (1790), originally stables, at the entrance to the town. The **Crescent** was built (1780–90) to rival Bath's Royal Crescent *(see p258).*

At its southwest end, the tourist information office is housed in the former town baths. Here, a spring where water surges from the ground at a rate of 7,000 litres (1,540 gallons) an hour can be seen. Buxton water is bottled and sold but there is a public fountain at **St Ann's Well**, opposite.

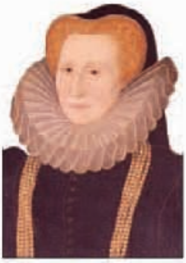
Steep gardens known as the Slopes lead from the Crescent to the small, award-winning **Museum and Art Gallery**, with geological and archaeological displays. Behind the Crescent, overlooking the Pavilion Gardens, is the striking 19th-century iron and glass **Pavilion**, and the splendidly restored **Opera House**, where a Music and Arts Festival is held in summer.

🏛 Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
Terrace Rd. ***Tel*** *01298 24658.* ○ *Easter–Sep: Tue–Sun; Oct–Easter: Tue–Sat.* ● *25 Dec–2 Jan.* ♿ 🛍
www.derbyshire.gov.uk

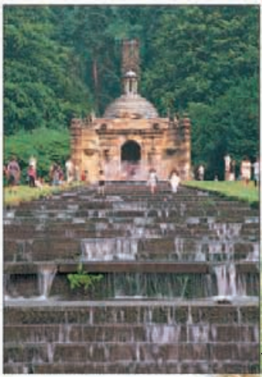
Pavilion Gardens
St John's Rd. ***Tel*** *01298 23114.*
○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍

Chatsworth House and Gardens ❷

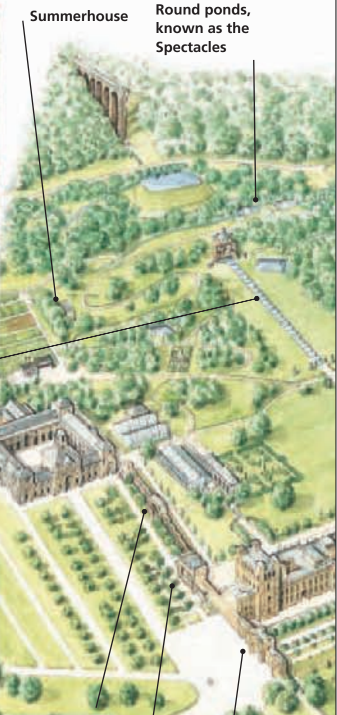
Chatsworth is one of Britain's most impressive stately homes. Between 1687 and 1707, the 4th Earl of Devonshire replaced the old Tudor mansion with this Baroque palace. The house has beautiful gardens, landscaped in the 1760s by "Capability" Brown *(see p26)* and developed by the head gardener, Joseph Paxton *(see pp56–7),* in the mid-19th century.



First house built in 1552 by Bess of Hardwick



★ Cascade
Water tumbles down the steps of the Cascade, built in 1696 to a French design.



STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Cascade
- ★ Chapel

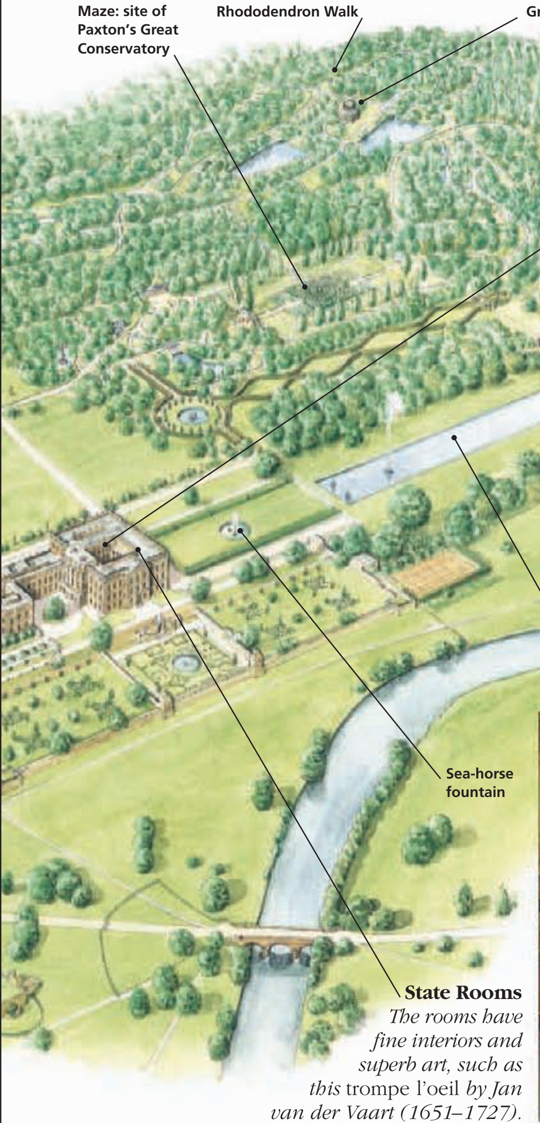
Paxton's "Conservative" Wall
This wood-and-glass conservatory wall was designed in 1848 by Joseph Paxton, the creator of Chatsworth's Great Conservatory (now demolished).

South front and canal pond with Emperor fountain

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Derbyshire. 🚆 *Chesterfield, then bus.* ***Tel*** *01246 565300.* ○ *mid-Mar–Dec: 11am–4:30pm (gardens: 11am–5pm) daily.* 🎟 ♿ *gardens & some of house.* 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.chatsworth.org

★ Chapel
The chapel (1693) is resplendent with art and marble.


Maze: site of Paxton's Great Conservatory
Rhododendron Walk
Grotto
Canal pond
Sea-horse fountain

War Horse
This sculpture (1991) is by Elisabeth Frink.

State Rooms
The rooms have fine interiors and superb art, such as this trompe l'oeil *by Jan van der Vaart (1651–1727).*

Matlock ❸

Derbyshire. 👥 *23,000.* 🚉
ℹ *Crown Square (01629 583388).*
www.visitderbyshire.co.uk

Matlock was developed as a spa from the 1780s. Interesting buildings include the massive structure (1853) on the hill above the town, built as a hydrotherapy centre but now council offices. On the hill opposite is the mock-Gothic **Riber Castle**.

From Matlock, the A6 winds through the outstandingly beautiful **Derwent Gorge** to **Matlock Bath**. Here, cable cars ascend to the **Heights of Abraham** pleasure park, with caves, nature trail and extensive views. Lead-mining is the subject of the **Peak District Mining Museum**, and visitors can inspect the old **Temple Mine** nearby. **Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mill** (1771), a world heritage site and the first ever water-powered cotton spinning mill, lies at the southern end of the gorge *(see p339).*

Heights of Abraham
On A6. ***Tel*** *01629 582365.* ○ *Feb–Oct: daily.* 💷 ♿ *limited.* 🛍 ☕
www.heightsofabraham.com

🏛 **Peak District Mining Museum**
The Pavilion, off A6. ***Tel*** *01629 583834.* ○ *daily.* 💷 ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.peakmines.co.uk

Temple Mine
Temple Rd, off A6. ***Tel*** *01629 583834.* ○ *call for details.* 💷

Cromford Mill
Mill Lane, Cromford. ***Tel*** *01629 824297.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* ✋ ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.cromfordmill.co.uk

Cable cars taking visitors to the Heights of Abraham

Tissington Trail ❹

See p337.

Peak District Tour ❺

See pp338–9.

Nottingham ❻

Nottinghamshire. 👥 *269,000.* 🚉
🚌 ℹ *Smithy Row (0844 477 5678).*
🧺 *daily.* **www**.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

The name of Nottingham often conjures up the image of the evil Sheriff, adversary of Robin Hood. **Nottingham Castle** stands on a rock riddled with underground passages. The castle houses a museum, with displays on the city's history, and what was Britain's first municipal art gallery, featuring works by Sir Stanley Spencer (1891–1959) and Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–82). At the foot of the castle, Britain's oldest tavern, the **Trip to Jerusalem** (1189), is still in business. Its name may refer to the 12th- and 13th-century crusades, but much of it is 17th-century.

There are several museums near the castle, including **Tales of Robin Hood**, which tells the story of the outlaw, and the **Museum of Nottingham Life**, which looks at life in Nottingham over the last 300 years.

Nottingham's redeveloped city centre includes an award-winning Old Market Square.

Environs: Stately homes within a few miles of Nottingham include the Neo-Classical **Kedleston Hall** *(see pp28–9)*. "Bess of Hardwick", Countess of Shrewbury *(see p334),* built the spectacular **Hardwick Hall** *(see p302).*

Nottingham Castle and Museum
Friar Lane. ***Tel*** *0115 9153700.*
○ *Tue–Sun.* ● *1 Jan, 24–27 Dec.* 💷 ♿ ✋ *of the caves.* ☕ 🛍

🏛 **Tales of Robin Hood**
30–38 Maid Marion Way.
Tel *0115 9483284.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 & 26 Dec.* 💷 ♿ ☕ 🛍

🏛 **Museum of Nottingham Life**
Castle Boulevard. ***Tel*** *0115 915 3600.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🛍 **www**.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Kedleston Hall
(NT) off A38. ***Tel*** *01332 842191.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Sat–Wed (pm).* 💷 ♿ 🍴 🛍

Hardwick Hall
(NT) off A617. ***Tel*** *01246 850430.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun & public hols.* 💷 ♿ *limited.* 🍴 🛍

ROBIN HOOD OF SHERWOOD FOREST

England's most colourful folk hero was a legendary swordsman, whose adventures are depicted in numerous films and stories. He lived in Sherwood Forest, near Nottingham, with a band of "merry men", robbing the rich to give to the poor. As part of an ancient oral tradition, Robin Hood figured mainly in ballads; the first written records of his exploits date from the 15th century. Today historians think that he was not one person, but a composite of many outlaws who refused to conform to medieval feudal constraints.

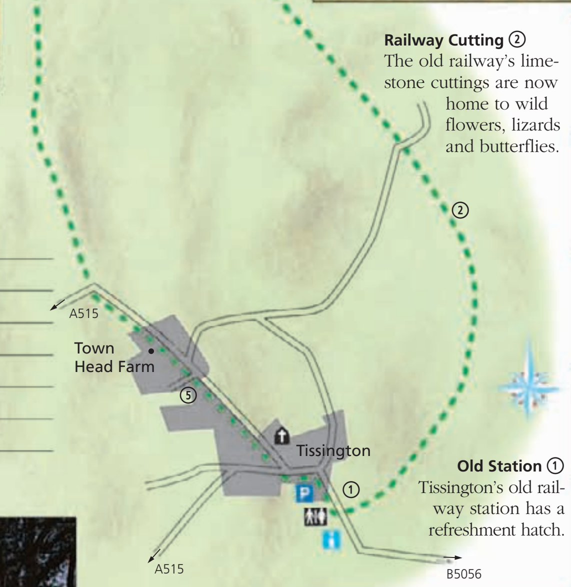
Victorian depiction of Friar Tuck and Robin Hood

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp581–582 and pp632–634

Tissington Trail ❹

The full-length Tissington Trail runs for 13 miles (22 km), from the village of Ashbourne to Parsley Hay, where it meets the High Peak Trail. This is a short version, taking an easy route along a dismantled railway line around Tissington village and providing good views of the beautiful White Peak countryside. The Derbyshire custom of well-dressing is thought to have originated in pre-Christian times. It was revived in the early 17th century, when the Tissington village wells were decorated in thanksgiving for deliverance from the plague, in the belief that the fresh water had had a medicinal effect. Well-dressing is still an important event in the Peakland calendar, and can be seen in other villages where the water supplies were prone to dry up.

Crakelow Cutting ③
The view to the north is of open farmland, dotted with small stands of trees.



Railway Cutting ②
The old railway's limestone cuttings are now home to wild flowers, lizards and butterflies.

Downhill Track ④
The track runs along an 18th-century dry-stone wall, built as a result of land enclosure.

KEY

● ●	Route
═	Minor road
P	Parking
i	Information
⌂	Church
🚻	Toilets

Old Station ①
Tissington's old railway station has a refreshment hatch.

Tissington Hall Well ⑤
This and the other four wells in Tissington are decorated on Ascension Day (the 40th day after Easter). Framed boards have a layer of clay into which rice, seeds and flower petals are pressed.

TIPS FOR WALKERS

Starting point: *Old Station.* i *Ashbourne Tourist Information (01335 343666).* ***Getting there:*** *Car from Buxton, Matlock or Ashbourne.* ***Length:*** *3 miles (5 km).* ***Difficulty:*** *Mostly flat trail along unused railway track and path.*
www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk

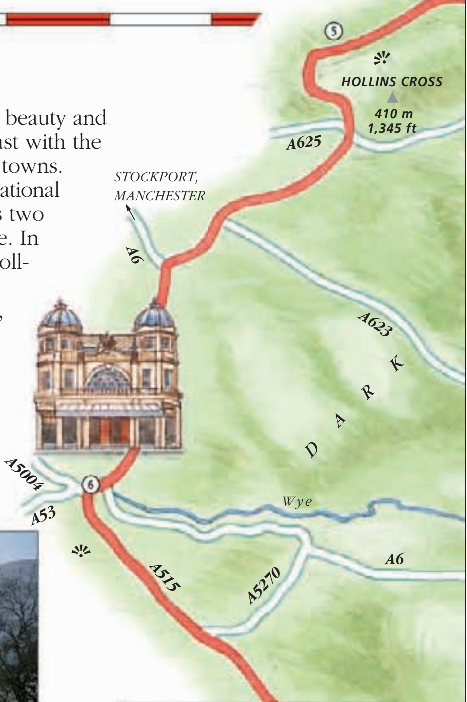
0 metres 500

0 yards 500

Peak District Tour ❺

Detail, Buxton Opera House

The Peak District's natural beauty and sheep-grazed crags contrast with the factories of nearby valley towns. Designated Britain's first National Park in 1951, the area has two distinct types of landscape. In the south are the gently rolling hills of the limestone White Peak. To the north, west and east are the wild, heather-clad moorlands of the Dark Peak peat bogs, superimposed on millstone grit.



Edale ⑤
The high plateau of scenic Edale mark the starting point of the 256 mile (412 km) Pennine Way footpath *(see p36).*

Buxton ⑥
This lovely spa town's opera house *(see p334)* is known as the "theatre in the hills" because of its magnificent setting.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Tour length: *40 miles (60 km).*
Stopping-off points: *There are refreshments at Crich Tramway Village and Arkwright's Mill in Cromford. Eyam has good old-fashioned tea shops. The Nag's Head in Edale is a charming Tudor inn. Buxton has many pubs and cafés.* (See also pp684–5.)

Arbor Low ⑦
This stone circle, known as the "Stonehenge of the North", dates from around 2000 BC and consists of 46 recumbent stones enclosed by a ditch.

KEY

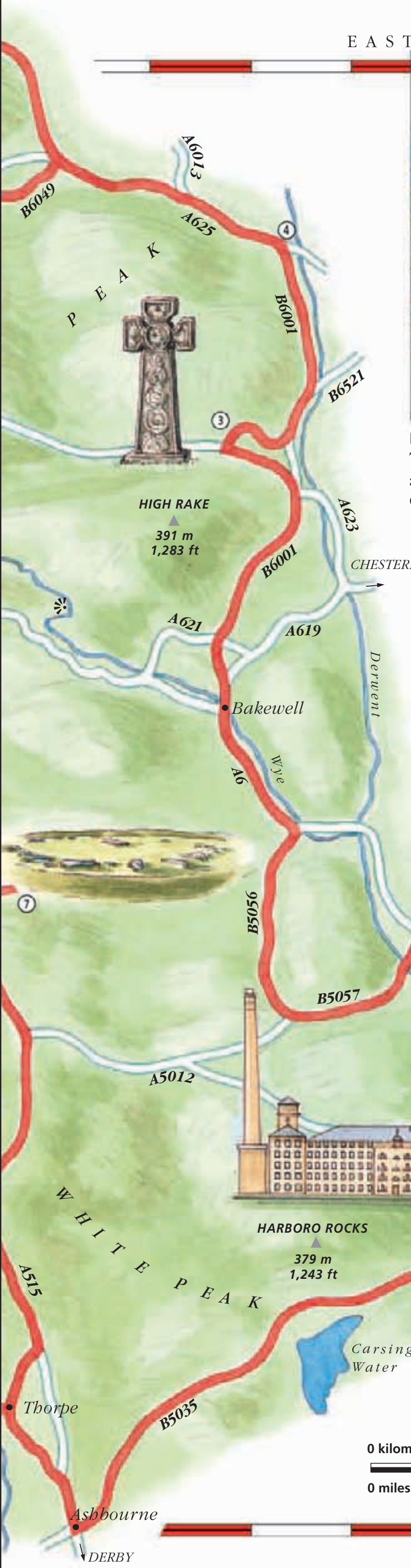
🟥	Tour route
═	Other roads
✱	Viewpoint

Dovedale ⑧
Popular Dovedale is one of the prettiest of the Peak District's river valleys, with its stepping stones, thickly wooded slopes and wind-sculpted rocks. Izaak Walton (1593–1683), author of *The Compleat Angler,* used to fish here.

Hathersage ④
There are spectacular panoramic views over the moors above Hathersage, which is thought to be "Morton" in Charlotte Brontë's *(see p412) Jane Eyre.*

Eyam ③
This is famous for the villagers' self-imposed quarantine to contain the plague of 1665–6. There is a fine Saxon cross in the churchyard.

Crich Tramway Village ②
This unique museum is in a disused quarry. Visitors can take rides on old trams from all over the world, along reconstructed Victorian streets.



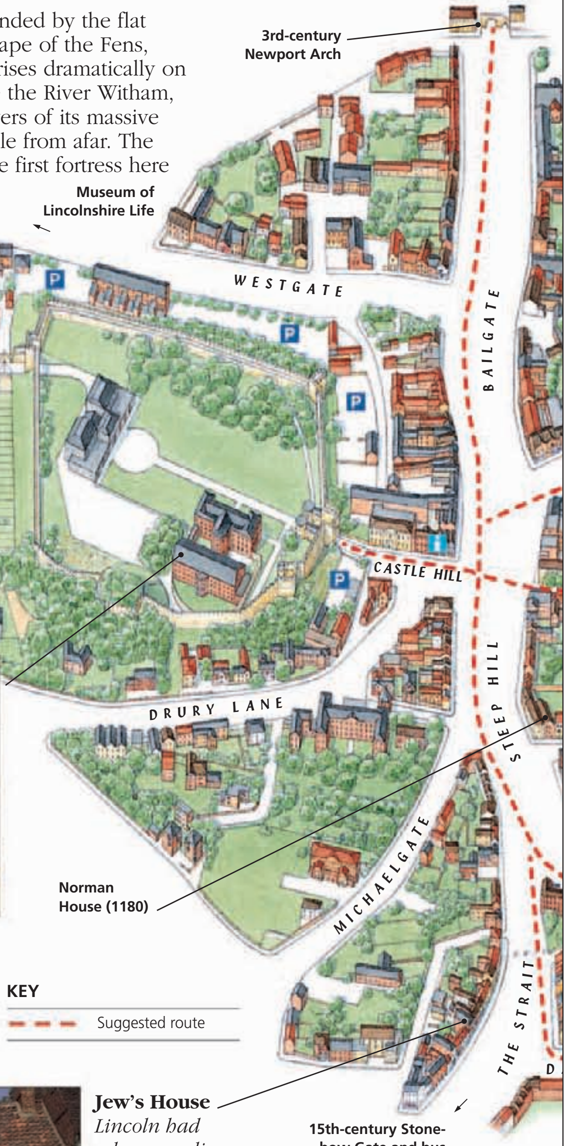
A6013
B6049
A625
④
PEAK
B6001
B6521
③
HIGH RAKE
391 m
1,283 ft
A623
CHESTERFIELD
B6001
A621
A619
Derwent
Bakewell
Wye
A6
⑦
B5056
A6
B5057
A632
Matlock
A615
A5012
A6
①
Cromford
Derwent
A6
②
MANSFIELD
Crich
WHITE PEAK
HARBORO ROCKS
379 m
1,243 ft
B5023
A6
B5035
DERBY
A515
Carsington Water
Thorpe
B5035
0 kilometres 3
0 miles 2
Ashbourne
DERBY

Cromford ①
Arkwright's Mill *(see p336)* was the world's first water-powered cotton mill. It stands next to the Cromford Canal, part of which can be toured by horse-drawn narrowboats in the summer.

Street-by-Street: Lincoln ❼

Carving in Angel Choir

Surrounded by the flat landscape of the Fens, Lincoln rises dramatically on a cliff above the River Witham, the three towers of its massive cathedral visible from afar. The Romans *(see pp44–5)* founded the first fortress here in AD 50. By the time of the Norman Conquest *(see p47)*, Lincoln was one of the most important cities in England (after London, Winchester and York). The city's wealth was due to its strategic importance for the export of wool from the Lincolnshire Wolds to Europe. Lincoln has managed to retain much of its historic character. Many remarkable medieval buildings have survived, most of which are along the aptly named Steep Hill, leading to the cathedral.


3rd-century Newport Arch
Museum of Lincolnshire Life
WESTGATE
BAILGATE
CASTLE HILL
DRURY LANE
STEEP HILL
MICHAELGATE
THE STRAIT
D
Norman House (1180)
15th-century Stonebow Gate and bus and railway stations

★ Lincoln Castle
The early Norman castle, rebuilt at intervals, acted as the city prison from 1787 to 1878. The chapel's coffin-like pews served to remind felons of their fate.

KEY

- – – Suggested route

Jew's House
Lincoln had a large medieval Jewish community. This mid-12th-century stone house, one of the oldest of its kind, was owned by a Jewish merchant.

0 meters 100

0 yards 100

STAR SIGHTS

★ Lincoln Castle

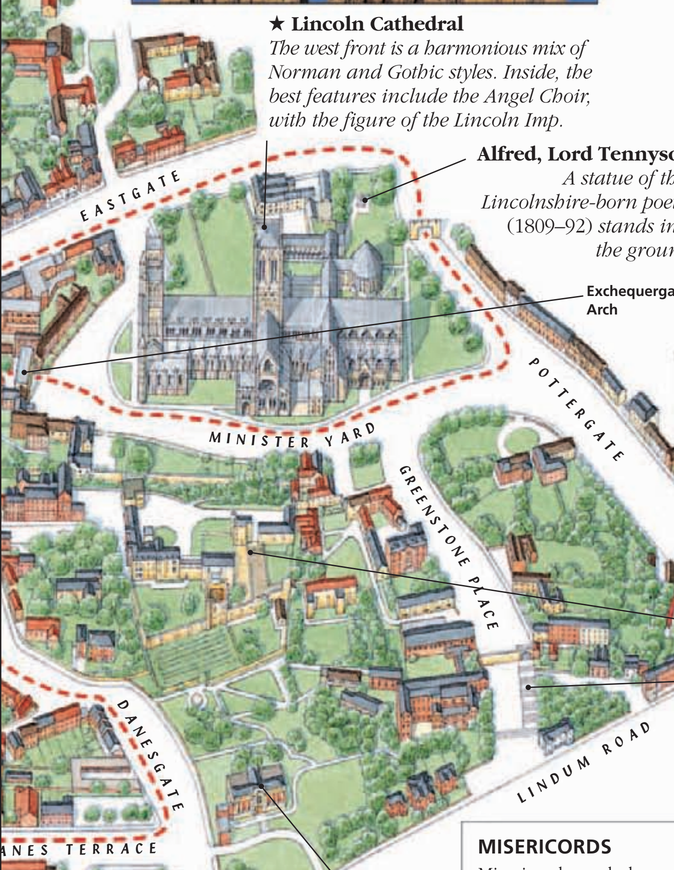
★ Lincoln Cathedral

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp581–582 and pp632–634

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Lincoln. 👥 *90,000.* ✈ *Humberside, 30 miles (48 km); E Midlands, 51 miles (82 km).* 🚆 *St Mary St.* 🚌 *Melville St.* ℹ *Castle Hill (01522 873800).* **www**.lincoln.gov.uk

★ Lincoln Cathedral
The west front is a harmonious mix of Norman and Gothic styles. Inside, the best features include the Angel Choir, with the figure of the Lincoln Imp.



Alfred, Lord Tennyson
A statue of the Lincolnshire-born poet (1809–92) *stands in the grounds.*

Exchequergate Arch

The 14th-century Pottergate Arch

Victorian Arboretum

Ruins of Medieval Bishop's Palace

Greenstone Stairs

Usher Art Gallery
This is packed with clocks, ceramics, and silver. There are paintings by Peter de Wint (1784–1849) and J M W Turner (see p91).

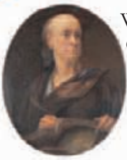
MISERICORDS

Misericords are ledges that project from the underside of the hinged seat of a choir stall, which provide support while standing. Lincoln Cathedral's misericords in the early Perpendicular-style canopied choir stalls are some of the best in England. The wide variety of subjects includes parables, fables, myths, biblical scenes and irreverent images from daily life.

St Francis of Assisi

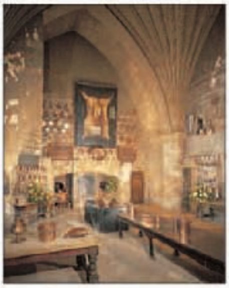
One of a pair of lions

Burghley House ⑧

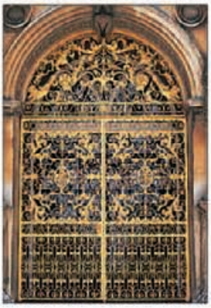


Portrait of Sir Isaac Newton, Billiard Room

William Cecil, 1st Lord Burghley (1520–98) was Queen Elizabeth I's adviser and confidant for 40 years and built the wonderfully dramatic Burghley House in 1555–87. The roof line bristles with stone pyramids, chimneys disguised as Classical columns and towers shaped like pepper pots. The busy skyline resolves itself into a symmetrical pattern when viewed from the west, where a lime tree stands, one of many planted by "Capability" Brown *(see p26)* when the surrounding deer park was landscaped in 1760. The interior walls are lavishly decorated with Italian paintings of Greek gods enacting their dramas. An Elizabethan "Garden of Surprises" and an education and visitor centre opened in 2007.

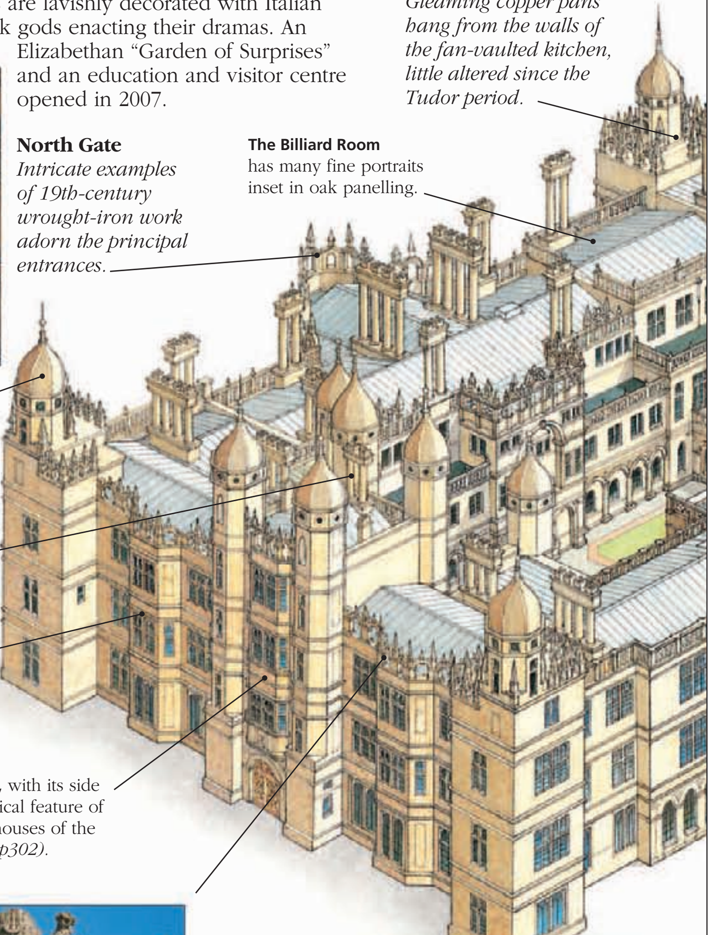


★ Old Kitchen
Gleaming copper pans hang from the walls of the fan-vaulted kitchen, little altered since the Tudor period.



North Gate
Intricate examples of 19th-century wrought-iron work adorn the principal entrances.

The Billiard Room has many fine portraits inset in oak panelling.

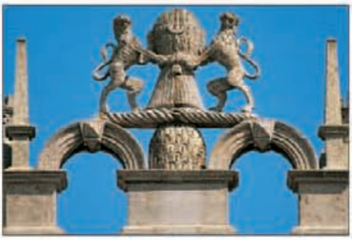


Cupolas were very fashionable details, inspired by European Renaissance architecture.

A chimney has been disguised as a Classical column.

Mullioned windows were added in 1683 when glass became less expensive.

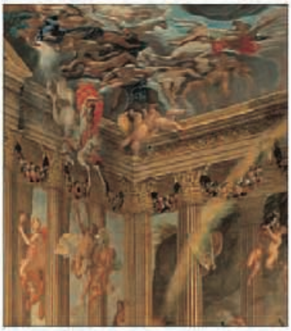
The Gatehouse, with its side turrets, is a typical feature of the "prodigy" houses of the Tudor era *(see p302).*



West Front
Featuring the Burghley crest, the West Front was finished in 1577 and formed the original main entrance.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Old Kitchen
- ★ Heaven Room
- ★ Hell Staircase

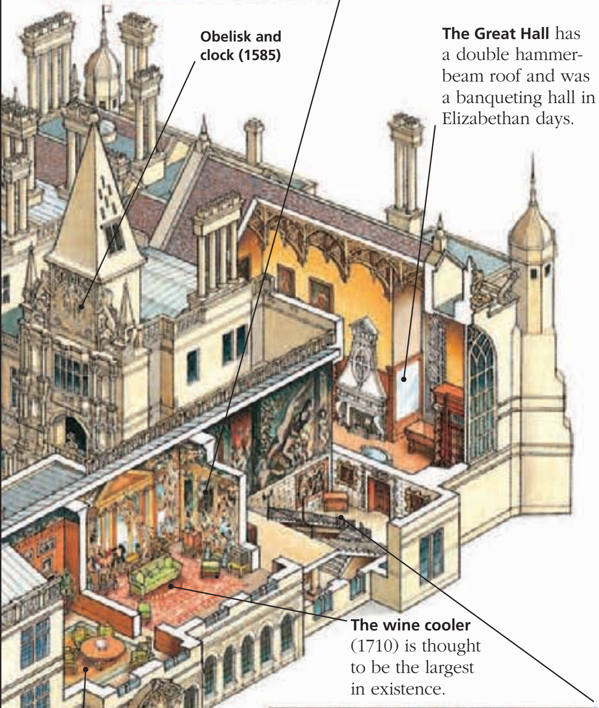


VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Off A1 SE of Stamford, Lincs. ***Tel*** *01780 752451.* ≋ *Stamford.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 11am–5pm daily.* ● *4 days Sep (horse trials).* 🎧 ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.burghley.co.uk

★ Heaven Room

Gods tumble from the sky, and satyrs and nymphs play on the walls and ceiling in this masterpiece by Antonio Verrio (1639–1707).



Obelisk and clock (1585)

The Great Hall has a double hammerbeam roof and was a banqueting hall in Elizabethan days.

The wine cooler (1710) is thought to be the largest in existence.

The Fourth George Room, one of a suite, is panelled in oak stained with ale.

★ Hell Staircase

Verrio painted the ceiling to show Hell as the mouth of a cat crammed with tormented sinners. The staircase, of local stone, was installed in 1786.

Stamford ❾

Lincolnshire. 👥 *18,000.* ≋ 🚌 ℹ *27 St Mary's St (01780 755611).* ⊖ *Fri.* **www**.southkesteven.gov.uk

Stamford is a showpiece town, famous for its churches and Georgian townhouses. The town retains a medieval street plan, with a warren of winding streets and cobbled alleys.

The spires of the medieval churches (five survive of the original eleven) give Stamford the air of a miniature Oxford.

Barn Hill, leading up from All Saints Church, is the best place for a view of Stamford's Georgian architecture in all its variety. Below it is Broad Street, where the **Stamford Museum** covers the history of the town. Exhibits include a model of Britain's fattest man, Daniel Lambert, who was 336 kg (53 stone) and died while attending Stamford Races in 1809, and the 6-m- (20-ft-) long Stamford Tapestry.

🏛 Stamford Museum

Broad St. ***Tel*** *01780 766317.* ○ *Apr–Sep: daily (Sun: pm); Oct–Mar: Mon–Sat.* ♿ 🛍 **www**.lincolnshire.gov.uk/stamfordmuseum

Northampton ❿

Northamptonshire. 👥 *187,000.* ≋ 🚌 ℹ *Sessions House, George Row (01604 838800).* ⊖ *Mon–Sat (Thu: antiques).* **www**.northampton.gov.uk

This market town was once a centre for shoe-making, and the **Central Museum and Art Gallery** holds the world's largest collection of footwear. One of many fine old buildings is the Victorian Gothic **Guildhall**. Six miles west of the town is **Althorp House**, family home of Diana Princess of Wales. Visitors can tour the house, grounds, see an exhibition on Diana and her island resting place.

🏛 Central Museum and Art Gallery

Guildhall Rd. ***Tel*** *01604 838111.* ○ *daily (Sun: pm).* ● *25, 26 Dec.* ♿ 🛍

🏛 Althorp House

Great Brington (off A428). ***Tel*** *01604 770107.* ○ *Jul & Aug.* ● *31 Aug.* 🎧 ☕ ♿ 🛍 **www**.althorp.com

THE NORTH COUNTRY

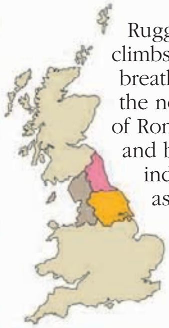
INTRODUCING THE NORTH COUNTRY 346–353

LANCASHIRE AND THE LAKES 354–379

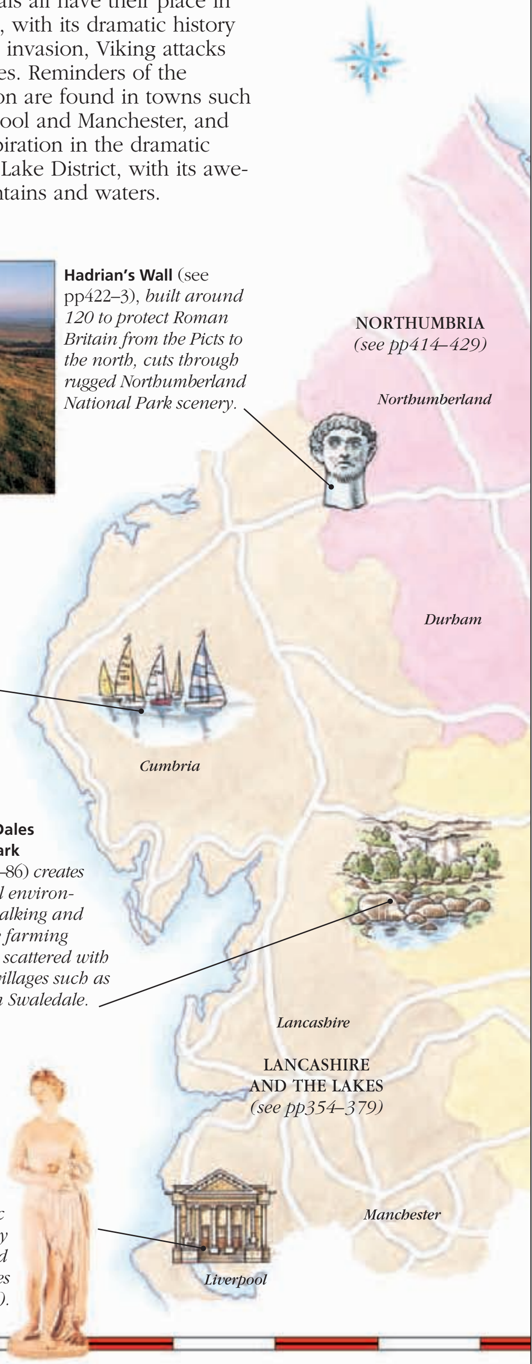
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER REGION 380–413

NORTHUMBRIA 414–429

The North Country at a Glance



Rugged coastlines, spectacular walks and climbs, magnificent stately homes and breathtaking cathedrals all have their place in the north of England, with its dramatic history of Roman rule, Saxon invasion, Viking attacks and border skirmishes. Reminders of the industrial revolution are found in towns such as Halifax, Liverpool and Manchester, and peace and inspiration in the dramatic scenery of the Lake District, with its awe-inspiring mountains and waters.



Hadrian's Wall (see pp422–3), *built around 120 to protect Roman Britain from the Picts to the north, cuts through rugged Northumberland National Park scenery.*

The Lake District (see pp354–69) *is a combination of superb peaks, tumbling rivers and falls and shimmering lakes such as Wast Water.*

Yorkshire Dales National Park (see pp384–86) *creates a delightful environment for walking and touring the farming landscape, scattered with attractive villages such as Thwaite, in Swaledale.*

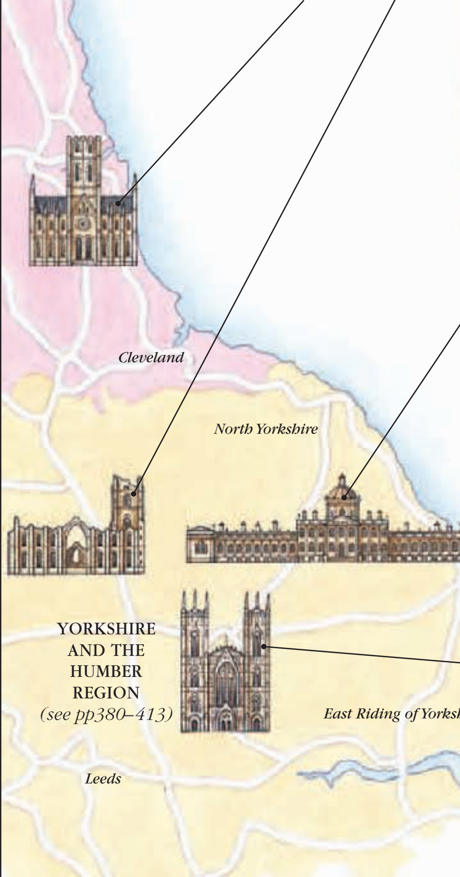
The Walker Art Gallery (see pp378–9) *in Liverpool is one of the jewels in the artistic crown of the north, with an internationally renowned collection ranging from Old Masters to modern art. Sculpture includes John Gibson's* Tinted Venus *(c.1851–6).*

◁ **The 11th-century Alnwick Castle, Alnwick, Northumberland, from across the River Aln**

Durham Cathedral (see pp428–9), *a striking Norman structure with an innovative southern choir aisle and fine stained glass, has towered over the city of Durham since 995.*

Fountains Abbey (see pp390–91), *one of the finest religious buildings in the north, was founded in the 12th century by monks who desired simplicity and austerity. Later the abbey became extremely wealthy.*

Castle Howard (see pp398–9), *a triumph of Baroque architecture, offers many magnificent settings, including this Museum Room (1805–10), designed by CH Tatham.*

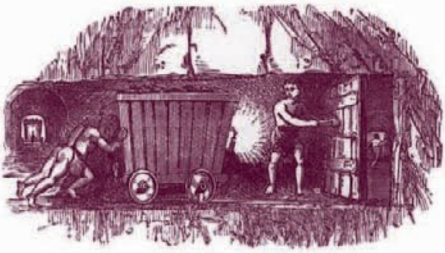

Cleveland
North Yorkshire
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER REGION
(see pp380–413)
East Riding of Yorkshire
Leeds
0 kilometres 25
0 miles 25

York (see pp404–409) *is a city of historical treasures, ranging from the medieval to Georgian. Its magnificent minster has a large collection of stained glass and the medieval city walls are well preserved. Other sights include churches, narrow alleyways and notable museums.*

The Industrial Revolution in the North

The face of Northern England in the 19th century was dramatically altered by the development of the coal mining, textile and shipbuilding industries. Lancashire, Northumberland and the West Riding *(see p381)* of Yorkshire all experienced population growth and migration to cities. The hardships of urban life were partly relieved by the actions of several wealthy industrial philanthropists, but many people lived in extremely deprived conditions. Although most traditional industries have now declined sharply or disappeared as demand has moved elsewhere, a growing tourist industry has developed in many of the former industrial centres.

Back-to-backs *or colliers' rows, such as these houses at Easington, were provided by colliery owners from the 1800s onwards. They comprised two small rooms for cooking and sleeping, and an outside toilet.*



Coal mining *was a family industry in the North of England with women and children working alongside the men.*

1815 Sir Humphrey Davy invented a safety oil lamp for miners. Light shone through a cylindrical gauze sheet which prevented the heat of the flame igniting methane gas in the mine. Thousands of miners benefited from this device.

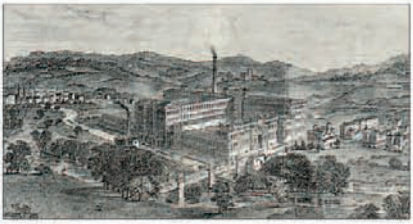
1750	1800
PRE-STEAM	STEAM AGE
1750	1800

1781 Leeds-Liverpool Canal opened. The building of canals facilitated the movement of raw materials and finished products, and aided the process of mechanization immeasurably.

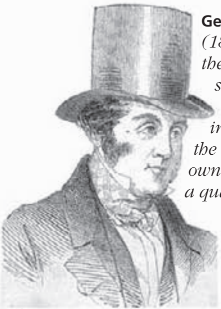
1830 Liverpool and Manchester railway opened, connecting two of the biggest cities outside London. Within a month the railway carried 1,200 passengers.

Halifax's Piece Hall (see p413), *restored in 1976, is the most impressive surviving example of industrial architecture in northern England. It is the only complete 18th-century cloth market building in Yorkshire. Merchants sold measures of cloth known as "pieces" from rooms lining the cloisters inside.*

Hebden Bridge (see p412), *a typical West Riding textile mill town jammed into the narrow Calder Valley, typifies a pattern of workers' houses surrounding a central mill. The town benefited from its position when the Rochdale Canal (1804) and then the railway (1841) took advantage of this relatively low-level route over the Pennines.*



Saltaire (see p411) *was a model village built by the wealthy cloth merchant and mill-owner Sir Titus Salt (1803–76), for the benefit of his workers. Seen here in the 1870s, it included houses and facilities such as shops, gardens and sportsfields, with almshouses, a hospital, school and chapel. A disciplinarian, Salt banned alcohol and pubs from Saltaire.*

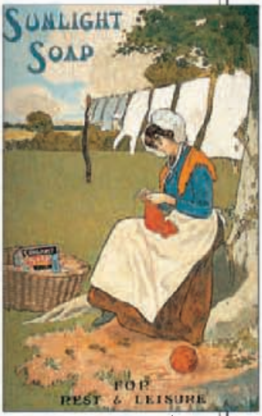


George Hudson *(1800–71) built the first railway station in York* (see p408) *in 1840–42. In the 1840s he owned more than a quarter of the railways in Britain and was known as the "railway king".*

1842 Coal Mines Act prevented women and children from working in harsh conditions in the mines.

Port Sunlight (see p379) *was founded by William Hesketh Lever (1851–1925) to provide housing for workers at his Sunlight soap factory. Between 1889 and 1914 he built 800 cottages. Amenities included a pool.*

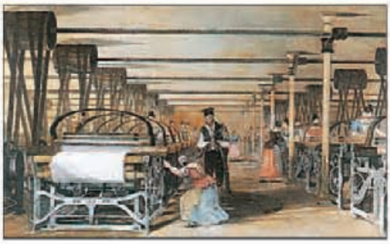
Strikes to improve working conditions were common. Violence flared in July 1893 when colliery owners locked miners out of their pits and stopped their pay after the Miners' Federation resisted a 25 per cent wage cut. Over 300,000 men struggled without pay until November, when work resumed at the old rate.



1850 1900

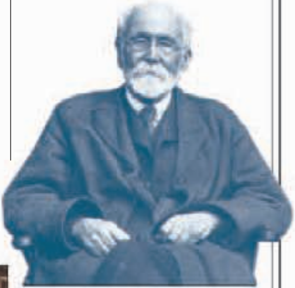
FULL MECHANIZATION

1850 1900



Power loom weaving *transformed the textile industry while creating unemployment among skilled hand loom weavers. By the 1850s, the West Riding had 30,000 power looms, used in cotton and woollen mills. Of 79,000 workers, over half were to be found in Bradford alone.*

Furness dry dock *was built in the 1890s when the shipbuilding industry moved north, in search of cheap labour and materials. Barrow-in-Furness, Glasgow* (see pp516–19) *and Tyne and Wear* (see p424) *were the new centres.*



Joseph Rowntree *(1836–1925) founded his chocolate factory in York in 1892, having formerly worked with George Cadbury. As Quakers, the Rowntrees believed in the social welfare of their workers (establishing a model village in 1904), and, with Terry's confectionary (1767), they made a vast contribution to York's prosperity. Today, Nestlé Rowntree is the world's largest chocolate factory and York is Britain's chocolate capital.*

North Country Abbeys

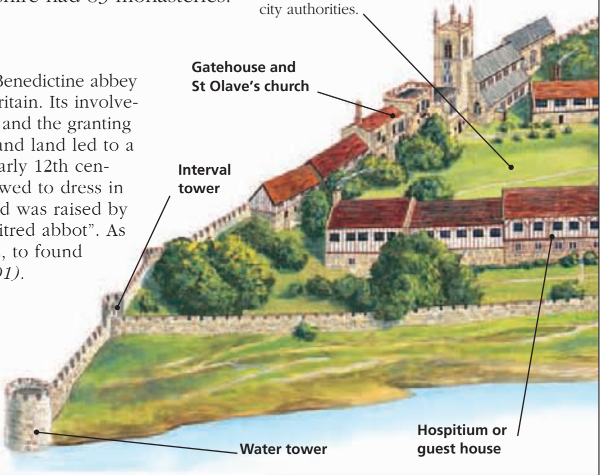
Northern England has some of the finest and best preserved religious houses in Europe. Centres of prayer, learning and power in the Middle Ages, the larger of these were designated abbeys and were governed by an abbot. Most were located in rural areas, considered appropriate for a spiritual and contemplative life. Viking raiders had destroyed many Anglo-Saxon religious houses in the 8th and 9th centuries *(see pp46–7)* and it was not until William the Conqueror founded the Benedictine Selby Abbey in 1069 that monastic life revived in the north. New orders, Augustinians in particular, arrived from the Continent and by 1500 Yorkshire had 83 monasteries.

Cistercian monk

Ruins of St Mary's Abbey today

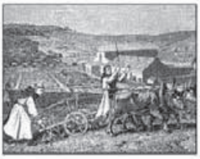
ST MARY'S ABBEY

Founded in York in 1086, this Benedictine abbey was one of the wealthiest in Britain. Its involvement in the wool trade in York and the granting of royal and papal privileges and land led to a relaxing of standards by the early 12th century. The abbot was even allowed to dress in the same style as a bishop, and was raised by the pope to the status of a "mitred abbot". As a result, 13 monks left in 1132, to found Fountains Abbey *(see pp390–91)*.


The Liberty of St Mary was the name given to the land around the abbey, almost a city within a city. Here, the abbot had his own market, fair, prison and gallows – all exempt from the city authorities.

MONASTERIES AND LOCAL LIFE

As one of the wealthiest landowning sections of society, the monasteries played a vital role in the local economy. They provided employment, particularly in agriculture, and dominated the wool trade, England's largest export during the Middle Ages. By 1387 two thirds of all wool exported from England passed through St Mary's Abbey, the largest wool trader in York.


Cistercian monks tilling their land

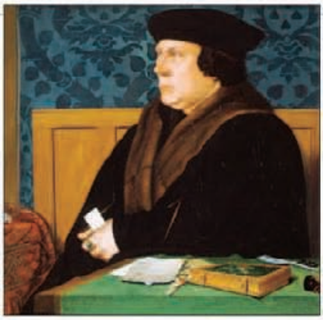
WHERE TO SEE ABBEYS TODAY

Fountains Abbey *(see pp390–91)*, founded by Benedictine monks and later taken over by Cistercians, is the most famous of the numerous abbeys in the region. Rievaulx *(see p393)*, Byland *(see p392)* and Furness *(see p368)* were all founded by the Cistercians, and Furness became the second wealthiest Cistercian house in England after Fountains. Whitby Abbey *(see p396)*, sacked by the Vikings, was later rebuilt by the Benedictine order. Northumberland is famous for its early Anglo-Saxon monasteries, such as Ripon, Lastingham and Lindisfarne *(see pp418–19)*.

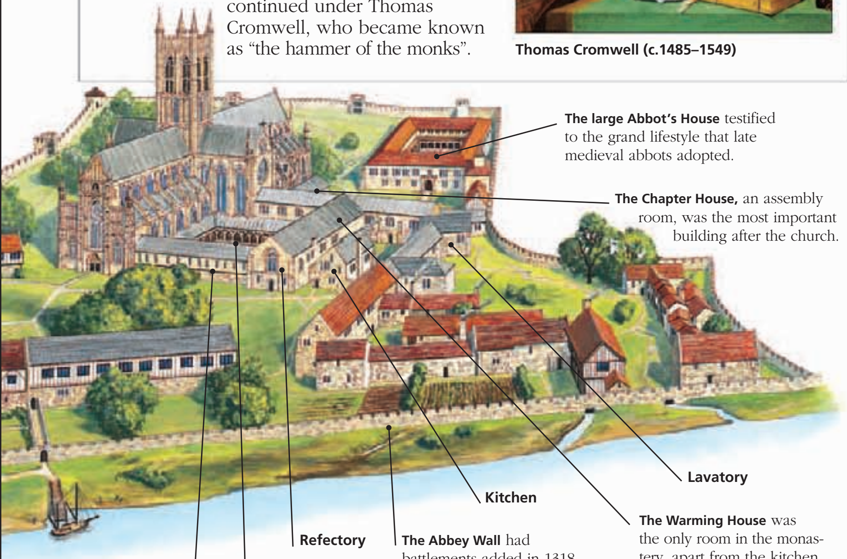
Mount Grace Priory (see p394) *founded in 1398, is the best-preserved Carthusian house in England. The former individual gardens and cells of each monk are still clearly visible.*

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES (1536–40)

By the early 16th century, the monasteries owned one-sixth of all English land and their annual income was four times that of the Crown. Henry VIII ordered the closure of all religious houses in 1536, acquiring their wealth in the process. His attempt at dissolution provoked a large uprising of Catholic northerners led by Robert Aske later that year. The rebellion failed and Aske and others were executed for conspiracy. The dissolution continued under Thomas Cromwell, who became known as "the hammer of the monks".



Thomas Cromwell (c.1485–1549)



The large Abbot's House testified to the grand lifestyle that late medieval abbots adopted.

The Chapter House, an assembly room, was the most important building after the church.

Lavatory

Kitchen

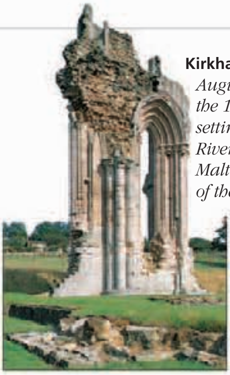
The Warming House was the only room in the monastery, apart from the kitchen, which had a fire.

Refectory

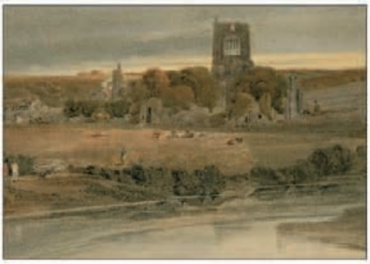
The Abbey Wall had battlements added in 1318 to protect it against raids by Scottish armies.

Common parlour

Cloister



Kirkham Priory, *an Augustinian foundation of the 1120s, enjoys a tranquil setting on the banks of the River Derwent, near Malton. The finest feature of the ruined site is the 13th-century gatehouse which leads into the priory complex.*



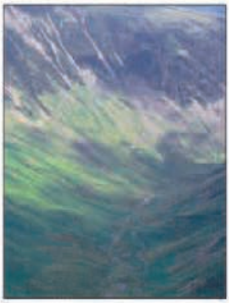
Kirkstall Abbey *was founded in 1152 by monks from Fountains Abbey. The well-preserved ruins of this Cistercian house near Leeds include the church, the late Norman chapter house and the abbot's lodging. This evening view was painted by Thomas Girtin (1775–1802).*

Easby Abbey *lies beside the River Swale, outside the pretty market town of Richmond. Among the remains of this Premonstratensian house, founded in 1155, are the 13th-century refectory and sleeping quarters and 14th-century gatehouse.*

The Geology of the Lake District

Piece of Lake District slate

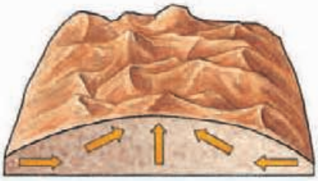
The Lake District contains some of England's most spectacular scenery. Concentrated in just 900 sq miles (231 sq km) are the highest peaks, deepest valleys and longest lakes in the country. Today's landscape has changed little since the end of the Ice Age 10,000 years ago, the last major event in Britain's geological history. But the glaciated hills which were revealed by the retreating ice were once part of a vast mountain-chain whose remains can also be found in North America. The mountains were first raised by the gradual fusion of two ancient landmasses which, for millions of years, formed a single continent. Eventually the continent broke into two, forming Europe and America, separated by the widening Atlantic Ocean.



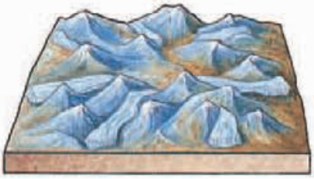
Honister Pass, *with its distinctive U-shape, is an example of a glaciated valley, once completely filled with ice.*

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY

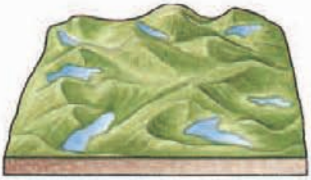
The oldest rock formed as sediment under an ocean called Iapetus. Some 450 million years ago, Earth's internal movements made two continents collide, and the ocean disappear.



1 **The collision** *buckled the former sea bed into a mountain range. Magma rose from Earth's mantle, altered the sediments and cooled into volcanic rock.*



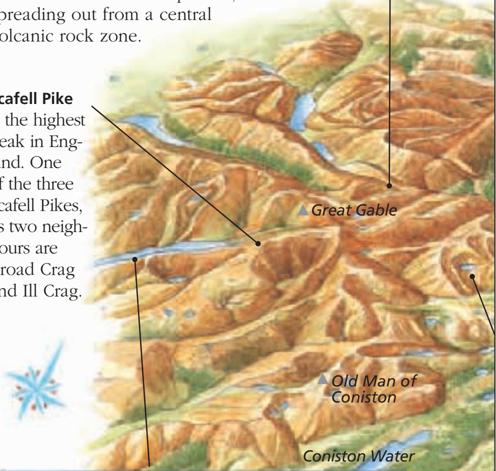
2 **In the Ice Age,** *glaciers slowly excavated huge rock basins in the mountainsides, dragging debris to the valley floor. Frost sculpted the summits.*



3 **The glaciers retreated** *10,000 years ago, their meltwaters forming lakes in valleys dammed by debris. As the climate improved, plants colonized the fells.*

RADIATING LAKES

The diversity of lakeland scenery owes much to its geology: hard volcanic rocks in the central lakes give rise to rugged hills, while soft slates to the north produce a more rounded topography. The lakes form a radial pattern, spreading out from a central volcanic rock zone.



Scafell Pike is the highest peak in England. One of the three Scafell Pikes, its two neighbours are Broad Crag and Ill Crag.

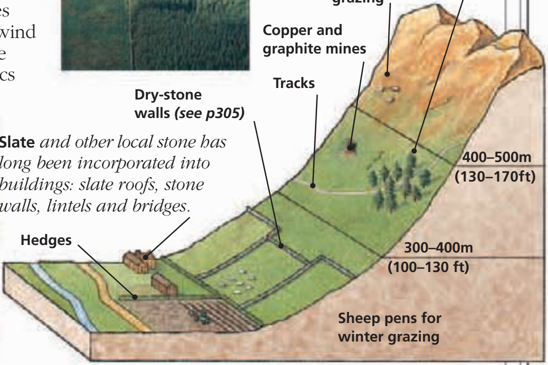
Wast Water *is the deepest of the lakes. Its southeastern cliffs are streaked with granite scree – the debris formed each year as rock shattered by the winter frost tumbles down during the spring thaw.*

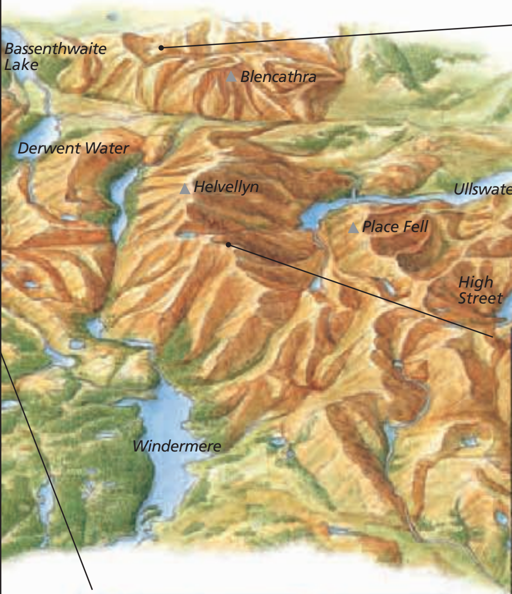
MAN ON THE MOUNTAIN

The sheltered valley floors with their benign climate and fertile soils are ideal for settlement. Farmhouses, dry-stone walls, pasture and sheep pens are an integral part of the landscape. Higher up, the absence of trees and bracken are the result of wind and a cooler climate. Old mine workings and tracks are the relics of once-flourishing industries.

Plantations *of coniferous trees are a recent feature of the landscape. Some see them as harming traditional views and disturbing the ecology.*

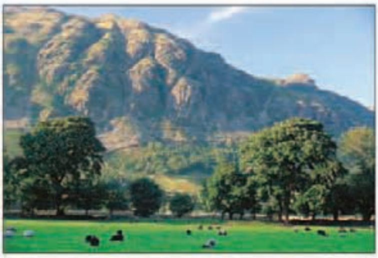
Slate *and other local stone has long been incorporated into buildings: slate roofs, stone walls, lintels and bridges.*


Summer grazing
Copper and graphite mines
Tracks
Dry-stone walls *(see p305)*
Hedges
400–500m (130–170ft)
300–400m (100–130 ft)
Sheep pens for winter grazing

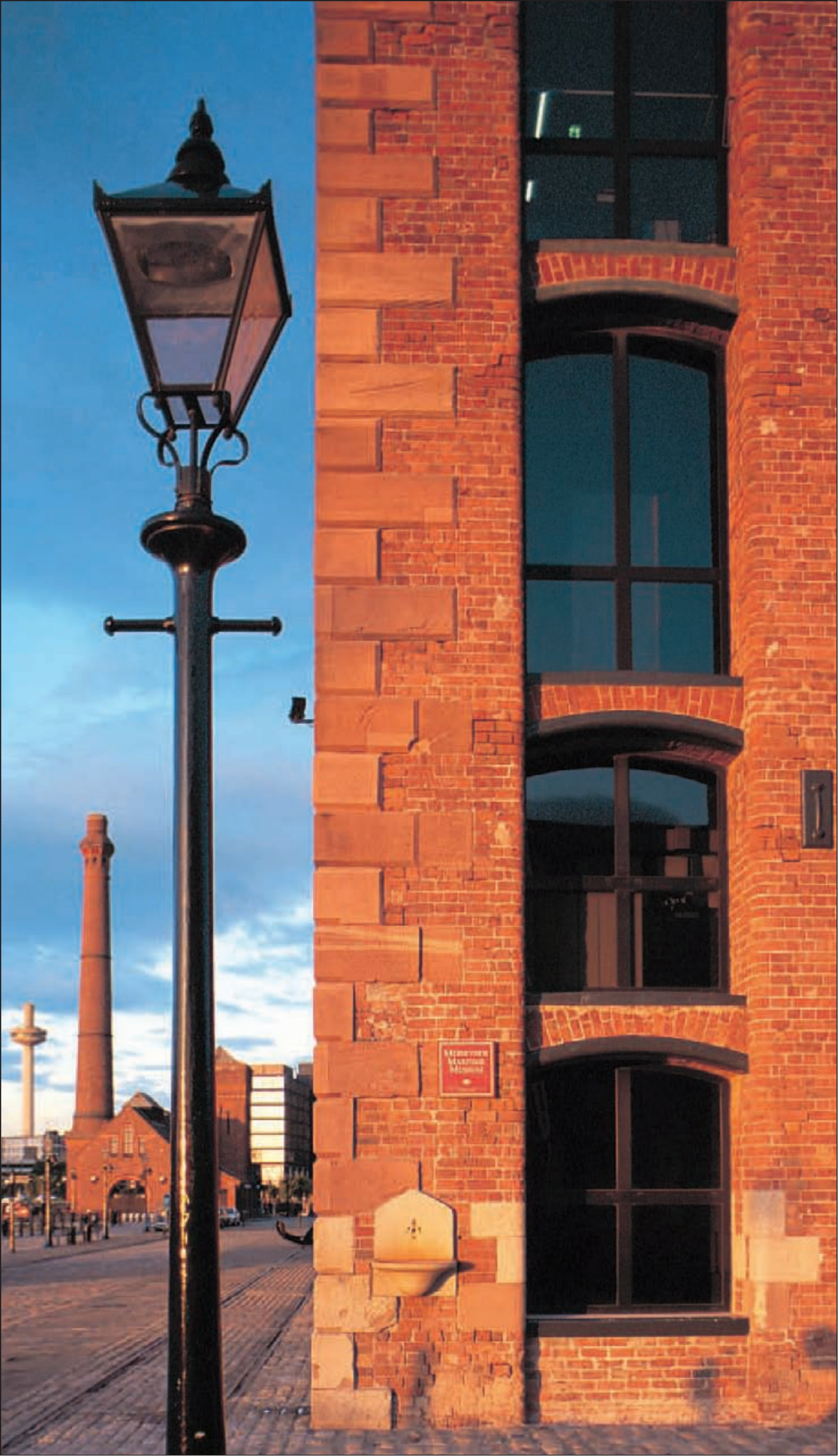

Bassenthwaite Lake
Blencathra
Derwent Water
Helvellyn
Ullswater
Place Fell
High Street
Windermere

Skiddaw *is composed of slate, formed when the muddy sediment of the ancient ocean floor was altered by extreme pressure.*

Striding Edge *is a long, twisting ridge which leads to the summit of Helvellyn. It was sharpened by the widening of the valleys on either side caused by the build up of glaciers.*



The Langdale Pikes *are remnants of the volcanic activity which once erupted in the area. They are made of hard igneous rocks, known as Borrowdale Volcanics. Unlike the Skiddaw Slates, they have not eroded smoothly, so they leave a craggy skyline.*



LANCASHIRE AND THE LAKES

CUMBRIA · LANCASHIRE

The landscape painter John Constable (1776–1837) declared that the Lake District, now visited by 18 million people annually, had "the finest scenery that ever was". The Normans built many religious houses here, and William II created estates for English barons. Today, the National Trust is its most important landowner.

Within the 30 mile (45 km) radius of the Lake District lies an astonishing number of fells and lakes. Today, all looks peaceful, but from the Roman occupation to the Middle Ages, the northwest was a turbulent area, as successive kings and rulers fought over the territory. Historians can revel in the various Celtic monuments, Roman remains, stately homes and monastic ruins. Although the scenery is paramount, there are many outdoor activities as well as spectator sports, such as Cumbrian wrestling, and wildlife to observe.

Lancashire's portfolio of tourist attractions includes the fine county town of Lancaster, bright Blackpool with its autumn illuminations and fairground attractions, and the peaceful seaside beaches to the south. Inland, the most appealing regions are the Forest of Bowland, a sparse expanse of heathery grouse moor, and the picturesque Ribble Valley.

Further south still are the industrial conurbations of Manchester and Merseyside, where the attractions are more urban.

There are many fine Victorian buildings in Manchester, where the industrial quarter of Castlefield has been revitalized. Liverpool, with its restored Albert Dock, is best known as the seaport city of the Beatles. It has a lively club scene and is increasingly used as a film location. Both cities have good art galleries and museums.

Jetty at Grasmere, one of the most popular regions of the Lake District

◁ **Restored Albert Dock, lining the River Mersey in Liverpool**

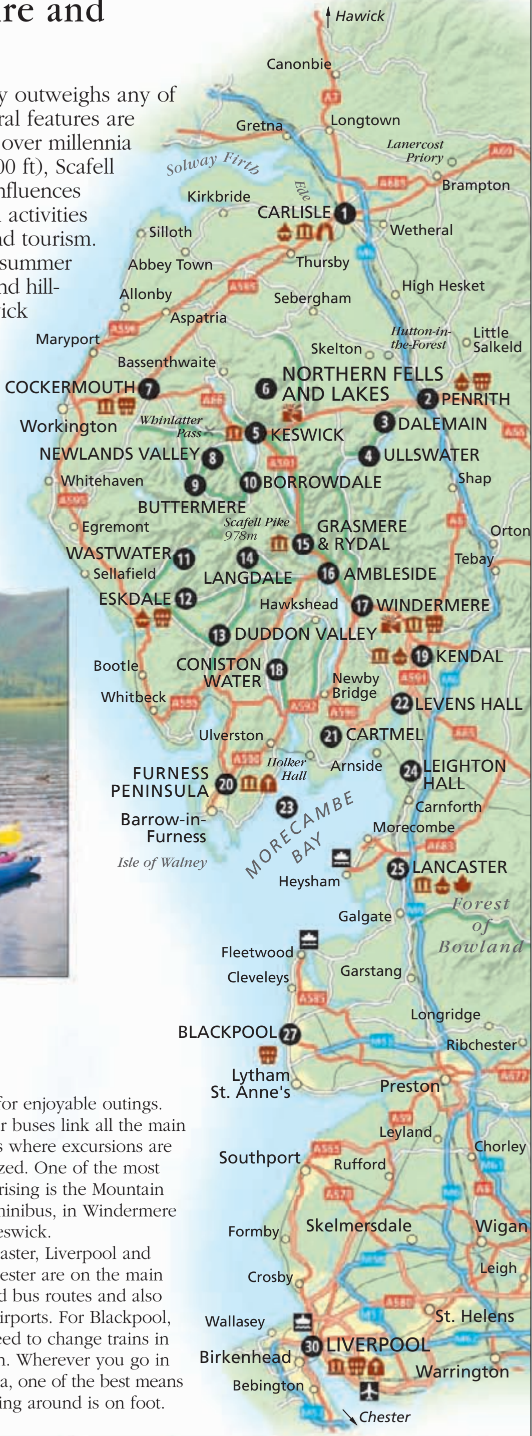
Exploring Lancashire and the Lakes

The Lake District's natural scenery outweighs any of its man-made attractions. Its natural features are the result of geological upheavals over millennia *(see pp352–3),* and at 978 m (3,200 ft), Scafell Pike is its highest peak. Human influences have left their mark too: the main activities are quarrying, mining, farming and tourism.

The Lakes are most crowded in summer when activities include lake trips and hill-walking. The best bases are Keswick and Ambleside, while there are also good hotels on the shores of Windermere and Ullswater and in the Cartmel area.

Lancashire's Bowland Forest is an attractive place to explore on foot, with picturesque villages. Further south, Manchester and Liverpool have excellent museums and galleries.

Watersports on Derwentwater in the Northern Fells and Lakes area



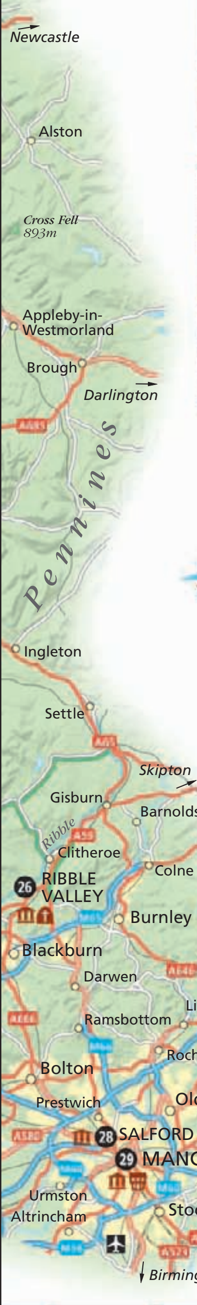
Hawick
Canonbie
Gretna
Longtown
Lanercost Priory
Solway Firth
Eden
Brampton
Kirkbride
CARLISLE 1
Wetheral
Silloth
Abbey Town
Thursby
High Hesket
Allonby
Sebergham
Aspatria
Maryport
Hutton-in-the-Forest
Little Salkeld
Skelton
Bassenthwaite
6 NORTHERN FELLS AND LAKES
COCKERMOUTH 7
2 PENRITH
Workington
Whinlatter Pass
5 KESWICK
3 DALEMAIN
NEWLANDS VALLEY 8
4 ULLSWATER
Whitehaven
9
10 BORROWDALE
Shap
BUTTERMERE
Egremont
Scafell Pike 978m
GRASMERE & RYDAL 15
Orton
WASTWATER 11
14
Tebay
Sellafield
LANGDALE
16 AMBLESIDE
ESKDALE 12
Hawkshead
17 WINDERMERE
13 DUDDON VALLEY
19 KENDAL
Bootle
CONISTON WATER 18
Newby Bridge
Whitbeck
22 LEVENS HALL
Ulverston
21 CARTMEL
Holker Hall
Arnside
FURNESS PENINSULA 20
24 LEIGHTON HALL
23
Carnforth
Barrow-in-Furness
MORECAMBE BAY
Morecambe
Isle of Walney
25 LANCASTER
Heysham
Forest of Bowland
Galgate
Fleetwood
Garstang
Cleveleys
Longridge
BLACKPOOL 27
Ribchester
Lytham St. Anne's
Preston
Leyland
Southport
Chorley
Rufford
Formby
Skelmersdale
Wigan
Leigh
Crosby
St. Helens
Wallasey
30 LIVERPOOL
Birkenhead
Warrington
Bebington
Chester

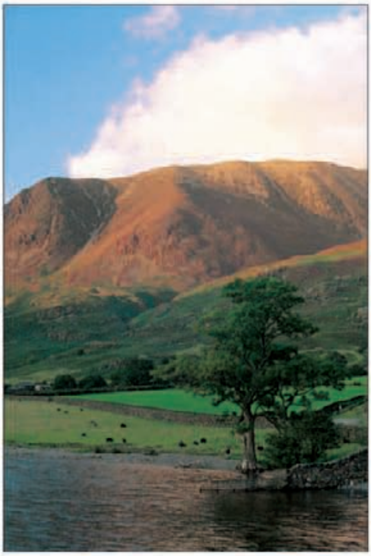
GETTING AROUND

For many, the first glimpse of the Lake District is from the M6 near Shap Fell, but the A6 is a more dramatic route. You can reach Windermere by train, but you need to change at Oxenholme, on the mainline route from Euston to Carlisle. Penrith also has rail services and bus links into the Lakes. L'al Ratty, the miniature railway up Eskdale, and the Lakeside & Haverthwaite railway, which connects with the steamers on Windermere, make for enjoyable outings. Regular buses link all the main centres where excursions are organized. One of the most enterprising is the Mountain Goat minibus, in Windermere and Keswick.

Lancaster, Liverpool and Manchester are on the main rail and bus routes and also have airports. For Blackpool, you need to change trains in Preston. Wherever you go in the area, one of the best means of getting around is on foot.

For additional map symbols *see back flap*


Newcastle
Alston
Cross Fell 893m
Appleby-in-Westmorland
Brough
Darlington
A685
Pennines
Ingleton
Settle
A65
Skipton
Gisburn
Barnoldswick
Ribble
A59
Clitheroe
Colne
26 RIBBLE VALLEY
M65
Burnley
Blackburn
Darwen
A646
A666
Ramsbottom
Littleborough
M66
M62
Leeds
Rochdale
A62
Bolton
Prestwich
Oldham
Sheffield
A580
28 SALFORD QUAYS
29 MANCHESTER
M602
M60
Urmston
Altrincham
Stockport
M56
A523
A6
Birmingham



View over Crummock Water, north of Buttermere, one of the quieter Western Lakes

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Ambleside	⑯
Blackpool	㉗
Borrowdale	⑩
Buttermere	⑨
Carlisle	①
Cartmel	㉑
Cockermouth	⑦
Coniston Water	⑱
Dalemain	③
Duddon Valley	⑬
Eskdale	⑫
Furness Peninsula	⑳
Grasmere and Rydal	⑮
Kendal	⑲
Keswick	⑤
Lancaster	㉕
Langdale	⑭
Leighton Hall	㉔
Levens Hall	㉒
Liverpool pp376–9	㉚
Manchester pp372–5	㉙
Morecambe Bay	㉓
Newlands Valley	⑧
Northern Fells and Lakes pp360–61	⑥
Penrith	②
Ribble Valley	㉖
Salford Quays	㉘
Ullswater	④
Wastwater	⑪
Windermere	⑰

KEY

- 🟦 Motorway
- 🟥 Major road
- 🟥 Secondary road
- ▭ Minor road
- 🟩 Scenic route
- — Main railway
- — Minor railway
- ▲ Summit

0 kilometres 20

0 miles 10

SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp582–5
- ***Where to Eat*** pp635–8

Preserved docks and Liver Building, Liverpool

Carlisle ❶

Cumbria. 👥 *102,000.* ✈ *mainly private.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *The Old Town Hall, Green Market (01228 625600).* **www**.historic-carlisle.org.uk

Due to its proximity to the Scottish border, this city has long been a defensive site.

Known as Luguvalium by the Romans, it was an outpost of Hadrian's Wall *(see pp422–3)*. Carlisle was sacked and pillaged repeatedly by the Danes, the Normans and border raiders, and suffered damage as a Royalist stronghold under Cromwell *(see p52)*.

Today, Carlisle is the capital of Cumbria. In its centre are the timber-framed Guildhall and market cross, and fortifications still exist around its West Walls, drum-towered gates and its Norman **castle**. The castle tower has a small museum devoted to the King's Own Border Regiment. The cathedral dates from 1122 and features a decorative east window. Carlisle's **Tullie House Museum** recreates the city's past with sections on Roman history and Cumbrian wildlife. Nearby lie the evocative ruins of **Lanercost Priory** (c.1166) and the remains of the unique **Birdoswald Roman Fort**.

Saxon iron sword in the Tullie House Museum

Façade of Hutton-in-the-Forest with medieval tower on the right

Carlisle Castle
(EH) Castle Way. ***Tel*** *01228 591922.*
○ *daily.* ● *24–26 Dec, 1 Jan.* 🎫
♿ *limited.* ☞ 🛍

Tullie House Museum
Castle St. ***Tel*** *01228 618718.*
○ *daily (Sun: pm).* ● *25–26 Dec, 1 Jan.* 🎫 ♿ 🛍 🍴

Lanercost Priory
(EH) Nr Brampton. ***Tel*** *016977 3030.*
○ *Apr–Sep: daily, Oct–Nov: Thu–Mon.* 🛍 🎫 ♿ *limited.*

Birdoswald Roman Fort
(EH) Gilsland, Brampton. ***Tel*** *016977 47602.* ○ *Apr–Nov: daily.* 🎫 ☕ 🛍

Penrith ❷

Cumbria. 👥 *15,000.* ℹ *Robinson's School, Middlegate (017688 67466).* 🧺 *Tue, Sat, Sun.* **www**.visiteden.gov.uk

Timewarp shopfronts on the market square and a 14th-century **castle** of sandstone are Penrith's main attractions. There are some strange hog-back stones in St Andrew's churchyard, allegedly a giant's grave, and the 285 m (937 ft) Beacon provides stunning views of distant fells.

Environs: Just northeast of Penrith at Little Salkeld is a famous Bronze Age circle (with 66 tall stones) known as **Long Meg and her Daughters**. Six miles (9 km) northwest of Penrith lies **Hutton-in-the-Forest**. The oldest part of this house is the 13th-century tower. Inside is a magnificent Italianate staircase, a sumptuously panelled 17th-century Long Gallery, a delicately stuccoed Cupid Room dating from the 1740s, and several Victorian rooms. Outside, you can walk around the walled garden and topiary terraces, or explore the woods.

Penrith Castle
(EH) Ullswater Rd. ***Tel*** *01912 691 200.* **House** ○ *daily.* ♿ *grounds.*

Hutton-in-the-Forest
Off B5305. ***Tel*** *017684 84449.*
House ○ *Easter–Sep: Wed, Thu, Sun & pub hols (pm).* **Grounds** ○ *Apr–Oct: Sun–Fri.* 🎫 ♿ *ltd.* ☕ 🛍

TRADITIONAL CUMBRIAN SPORTS

Cumberland wrestling is one of the most interesting sports to watch in the summer months. The combatants, often clad in longjohns and embroidered velvet pants, clasp one another in an armlock and attempt to topple each other over. Technique and good balance outweigh physical force. Other traditional Lakeland sports include fell-racing, a gruelling test of speed and stamina up and down local peaks at ankle-breaking speed. Hound-trailing is also a popular sport in which specially bred hounds follow an aniseed trail over the hills. Sheepdog trials, steam fairs, flower shows and gymkhanas take place in summer. The Egremont Crab Fair in September holds events such as greasy-pole climbing.

Cumberland wrestlers

Dalemain ❸

Penrith, Cumbria. ***Tel*** *017684 86450.* 🚆 🚌 *Penrith then taxi.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Sun–Thu.* 🎫 ♿ *limited.* ☞ ☕ 🛍 **www**.dalemain.com

A seemly Georgian façade gives this fine house near Ullswater the impression of architectural unity, but hides a much-altered medieval and Elizabethan structure with a maze of rambling passages. Public rooms include a superb Chinese drawing room with

Sheep resting at Glenridding, on the southwest shore of Ullswater

hand-painted wallpaper, and a panelled 18th-century drawing room. Several small museums occupy various outbuildings, and the gardens contain a fine collection of fragrant shrub roses and a huge silver fir.

Sumptuous Chinese drawing room at Dalemain

Ullswater ❹

Cumbria. 🚆 *Penrith.* ℹ *Main car park, Glenridding, Penrith (017684 82414).* **www**.lake-district.gov.uk

Often considered the most beautiful of all Cumbria's lakes, Ullswater stretches from gentle farmland near Penrith to dramatic hills and crags at its southern end. The main western shore road can be very busy. In summer, two restored Victorian steamers ply regularly from Pooley Bridge to Glenridding. One of the best walks crosses the eastern shore from Glenridding to Hallin Fell and the moorland of Martindale. The western side passes Gowbarrow, where Wordsworth's immortalized "host of golden daffodils" bloom in spring *(see p366)*.

Keswick ❺

Cumbria. 👥 *5,000.* ℹ *Moot Hall, Market Sq (017687 75738).* **www**.keswick.org

Popular as a tourist venue since the advent of the railway in Victorian times, Keswick now has guest houses, a summer repertory theatre, outdoor equipment shops and a serious parking problem in high season. Its most striking central building is the **Moot Hall**, dating from 1813, now used as the tourist office. The town prospered on wool and leather until, in Tudor times, deposits of graphite were discovered. Mining then took over as the main industry and Keswick became an important centre for pencil manufacture. In World War II, hollow pencils were made to hide espionage maps on thin paper. The factory includes the **Pencil Museum** with interesting audiovisual shows. Among the many fine exhibits at the **Keswick Museum and Art Gallery** are the original manuscripts of Lakeland writers, musical stones and many other curiosities.

To the east of the town lies the ancient stone circle of Castlerigg, thought to be older than Stonehenge.

🏛 Pencil Museum

Carding Mill Lane. ***Tel*** *017687 73626.* ○ *9:30am–5pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25, 26 Dec.* ✋ ♿ ☕ 🛍

🏛 Keswick Museum and Art Gallery

Fitz Park, Station Rd. ***Tel*** *017687 73263.* ○ *10am–4pm Tue–Sat & public hols.* ♿ 🛍

GEORGE FISHER
GEORGE FISHER
Outdoor equipment shop in Keswick

Northern Fells and Lakes ⑥

The rare red squirrel, native to the area

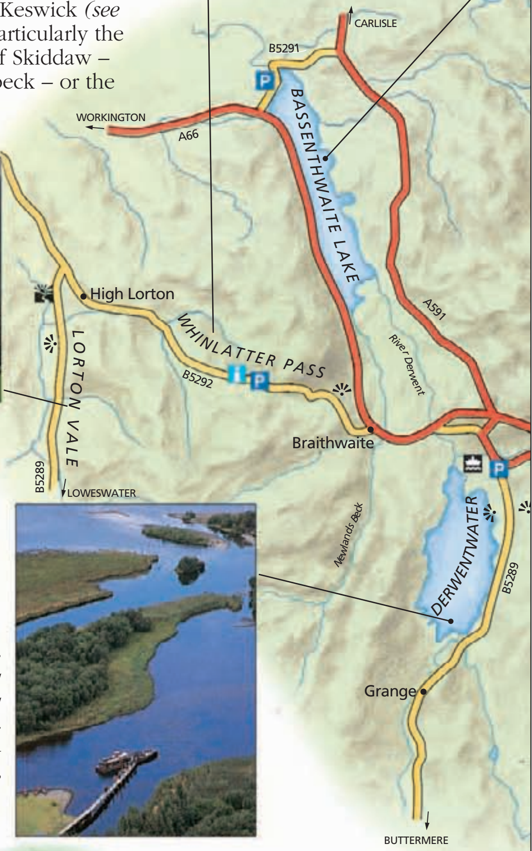
Many visitors praise this northern area of the Lake District National Park for its scenery and geological interest *(see pp352–3)*. It is ideal walking country, and nearby Derwentwater, Thirlmere and Bassenthwaite provide endless scenic views, rambles and opportunities for watersports. Large areas surrounding the regional centre of Keswick *(see p359)* are accessible only on foot, particularly the huge mass of hills known as Back of Skiddaw – located between Skiddaw and Caldbeck – or the Helvellyn range, east of Thirlmere.

The Whinlatter Pass is an easy route from Keswick to the farmland of Lorton Vale. It gives a good view of Bassenthwaite Lake and a glimpse of Grisedale Pike.

Bassenthwaite is best viewed from the east shore; however, accessibility is limited. Parking is easier from the west side.

Lorton Vale

The lush, green farmland south of Cockermouth creates a marked contrast with the more rugged mountain landscapes of the central Lake District. In the village of Low Lorton is the private manor house of Lorton Hall, dating from the 15th century.

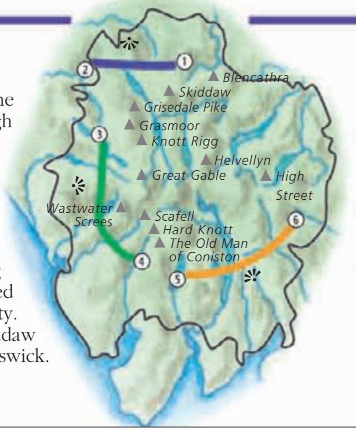

CARLISLE
B5291
WORKINGTON
A66
BASSENTHWAITE LAKE
A591
High Lorton
LORTON VALE
WHINLATTER PASS
B5292
River Derwent
Braithwaite
B5289
LOWESWATER
Newlands Beck
DERWENTWATER
B5289
Grange
BUTTERMERE

Derwentwater

Surrounded by woodland slopes and fells, this attractive oval lake is dotted with tiny islands. One of these was inhabited by St Herbert, a disciple of St Cuthbert (see p419)*, who lived there as a hermit until 687. A boat from Keswick provides a lake excursion.*

THE MAJOR PEAKS

The Lake District hills are the highest in England. Although they seem small by Alpine or world standards, the scale of the surrounding terrain makes them look extremely grand. Some of the most important peaks are shown on the following pages. Each peak is regarded as having its own personality. This section shows the Skiddaw fells, which are north of Keswick.

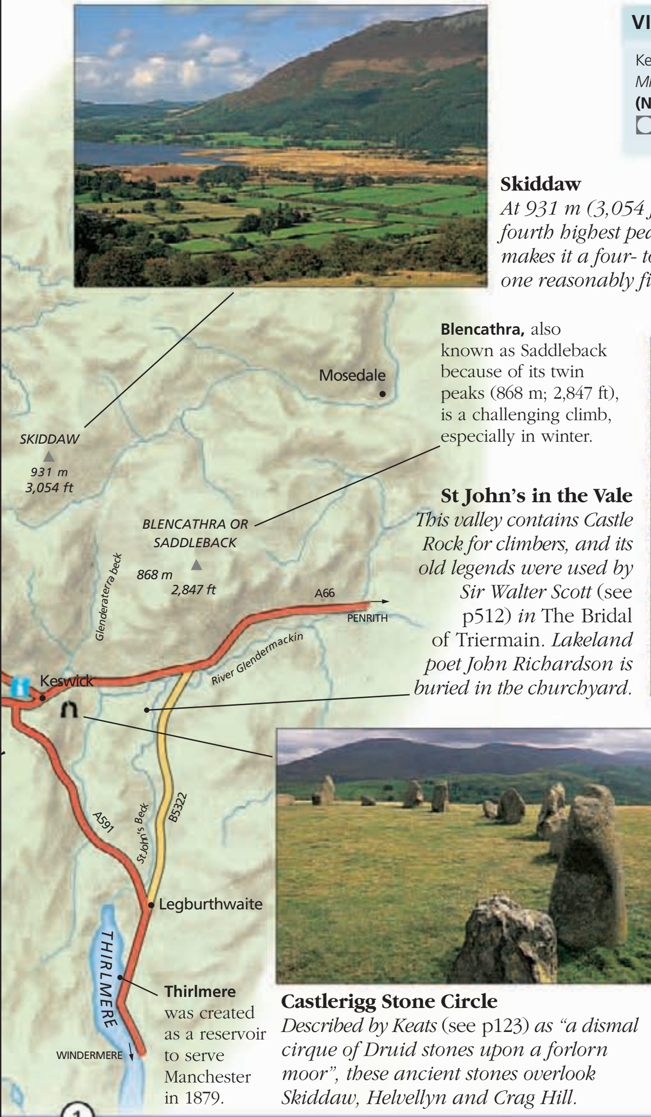

①
②
Blencathra
Skiddaw
Grisedale Pike
Grasmoor
③
Knott Rigg
Helvellyn
Great Gable
High Street
Wastwater Screes
Scafell
⑥
Hard Knott
The Old Man of Coniston
④
⑤

KEY

- From ① Blencathra to ② Cockermouth *(see opposite)*
- From ③ Grisedale Pike to ④ the Old Man of Coniston *(see pp362–3)*
- From ⑤ the Old Man of Coniston to ⑥ Windermere and Tarn Crag *(see pp364–5)*
- National Park boundary

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Keswick, Cumbria. 🚌 *Keswick.* ℹ *Mkt Sq, Keswick (017687 72645).* **(NT) Castlerigg Stone Circle** ○ *daily.* **www**.keswick.org


SKIDDAW
931 m
3,054 ft
Mosedale
BLENCATHRA OR SADDLEBACK
868 m
2,847 ft
Glenderaterra beck
A66
PENRITH
River Glendermackin
Keswick
A591
St John's Beck
B5322
Legburthwaite
THIRLMERE
WINDERMERE

Skiddaw
At 931 m (3,054 ft) Skiddaw is England's fourth highest peak. Its rounded shape makes it a four- to five-hour walk for anyone reasonably fit and suitably equipped.

Blencathra, also known as Saddleback because of its twin peaks (868 m; 2,847 ft), is a challenging climb, especially in winter.

St John's in the Vale
This valley contains Castle Rock for climbers, and its old legends were used by Sir Walter Scott (see p512) *in* The Bridal of Triermain. *Lakeland poet John Richardson is buried in the churchyard.*

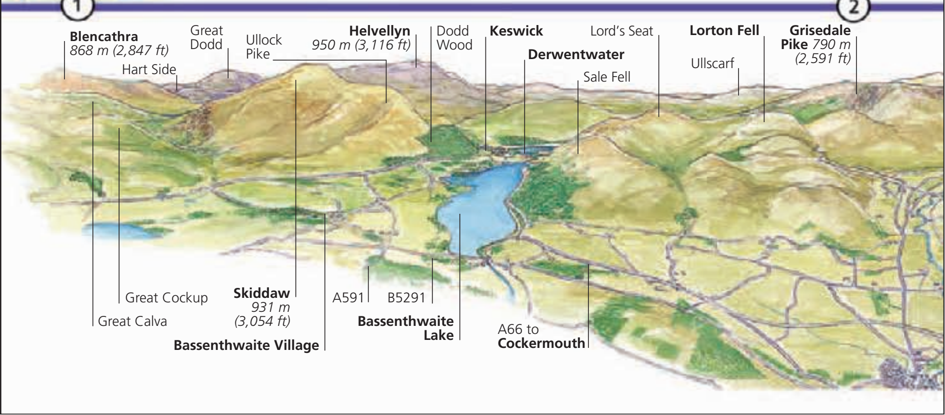
Castlerigg Stone Circle
Described by Keats (see p123) *as "a dismal cirque of Druid stones upon a forlorn moor", these ancient stones overlook Skiddaw, Helvellyn and Crag Hill.*

Thirlmere was created as a reservoir to serve Manchester in 1879.

KEY

ℹ	Information
🟥	Major road
🟨	Minor road
✳	Viewpoint

0 kilometres 5
0 miles 3


①
②
Blencathra 868 m (2,847 ft)
Hart Side
Great Dodd
Ullock Pike
Helvellyn 950 m (3,116 ft)
Dodd Wood
Keswick
Lord's Seat
Derwentwater
Sale Fell
Lorton Fell
Ullscarf
Grisedale Pike 790 m (2,591 ft)
Great Cockup
Great Calva
Skiddaw 931 m (3,054 ft)
Bassenthwaite Village
A591
B5291
Bassenthwaite Lake
A66 to Cockermouth

Crummock Water, one of the quieter "western lakes"

Cockermouth ❼

Cumbria. 👥 *8,000.* 🚆 *Workington.* 🚌 ℹ *Town Hall, Market St (01900 821869).* **www**.western-lakedistrict.co.uk

Colourwashed terraces and restored workers' cottages beside the river are especially attractive in the busy market town of Cockermouth, which dates from the 12th century. The place not to miss is the handsome **Wordsworth House**, in the Main Street, where the poet was born *(see p366)*. This fine Georgian building still contains a few of the family's possessions, and is furnished in the style of the late 18th century. Wordsworth mentions the attractive terraced garden, which overlooks the River Derwent, in his *Prelude*. The local parish church contains a Wordsworth memorial window.

Cockermouth **castle** is partly ruined but still inhabited and closed to the public. The town has small museums of printing, toys and a mineral collection, and an art gallery. The **Jennings Brewery** invites visitors for tours and tastings.

Kitchen, with an old range and tiled floor, at Wordsworth House

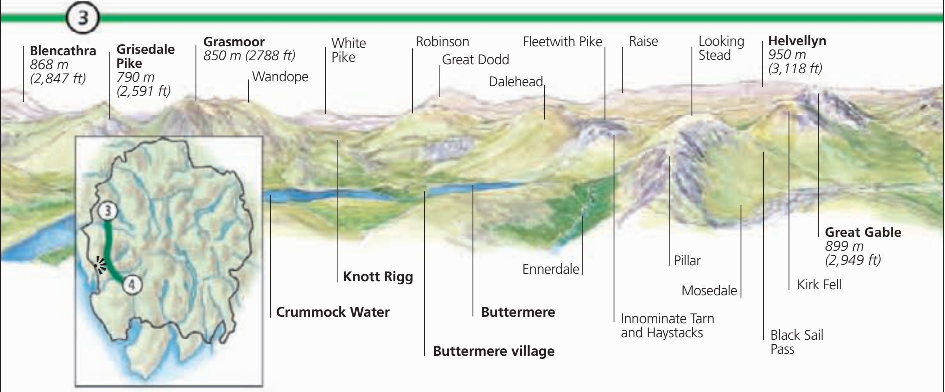
🏛 **Wordsworth House**
(NT) Main St. ***Tel*** *01900 820884.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Sat–Wed.* ✋ *non-members.* 🛍 **www**.wordsworthhouse.org.uk

🏭 **Jennings Brewery**
Castle Brewery. ***Tel*** *0845 1297185.* ○ *Mon–Sat (Jul, Aug: daily).* ✋ 🛍 **www**.jenningsbrewery.co.uk

Newlands Valley ❽

Cumbria. 🚆 *Workington then bus.* 🚌 *Cockermouth.* ℹ *Town Hall, Market St, Cockermouth (01900 821869); Market Sq, Keswick (017687 72645).* **www**.lake-district.gov.uk

From the gently wooded shores of Derwentwater, the Newlands Valley runs through a scattering of farms towards rugged heights of 335 m (1,100 ft) at the top of the pass, where steps lead to the waterfall, Moss Force. Grisedale Pike, Grasmoor and Knott Rigg all provide excellent fell walks. Local mineral deposits of copper, graphite, lead and even small amounts of gold and silver were extensively mined here from Elizabethan times onwards. **Little Town** was used as a setting by Beatrix Potter *(see p367)* in *The Tale of Mrs Tiggywinkle*.


③
Blencathra 868 m (2,847 ft)
Grisedale Pike 790 m (2,591 ft)
Grasmoor 850 m (2788 ft)
Wandope
White Pike
Robinson
Great Dodd
Dalehead
Fleetwith Pike
Raise
Looking Stead
Helvellyn 950 m (3,118 ft)
Knott Rigg
Crummock Water
Buttermere village
Buttermere
Ennerdale
Innominate Tarn and Haystacks
Pillar
Mosedale
Black Sail Pass
Kirk Fell
Great Gable 899 m (2,949 ft)
3
4

Buttermere ❾

Cumbria. 🚆 *Penrith.* 🚌 *Cockermouth.* 🚌 *Penrith to Keswick; Keswick to Buttermere.* ℹ *Town Hall, Market St, Cockermouth (01900 821869).*

Interlinking with Crummock Water and Loweswater, Buttermere and its surroundings contain some of the most appealing countryside in the region. Often known as the "western lakes", the three are remote enough not to become too crowded. Buttermere is a jewel amid grand fells: High Stile, Red Pike and Haystacks. Here the ashes of the celebrated hill-walker and author of fell-walking books, A W Wainwright, are scattered.

The village of Buttermere, with its handful of houses and inns, is a popular starting point for walks round all three lakes. Loweswater is hardest to reach and therefore the quietest, surrounded by woods and hills. Nearby Scale Force is the highest waterfall in the Lake District, plunging 52 m (170 ft).

Verdant valley of Borrowdale, a favourite with artists

Borrowdale ❿

Cumbria. 🚆 *Workington.* 🚌 *Cockermouth.* ℹ *Town Hall, Market St, Cockermouth (01900 821869).*

This romantic valley, subject of a myriad sketches and watercolours before photography stole the scene, lies beside the densely wooded shores of Derwentwater under towering crags. It is a popular trip from Keswick and a great variety of walks are possible along the valley.

The tiny hamlet of **Grange** is one of the prettiest spots, where the valley narrows dramatically to form the "Jaws of Borrowdale". Nearby Castle Crag has superb views.

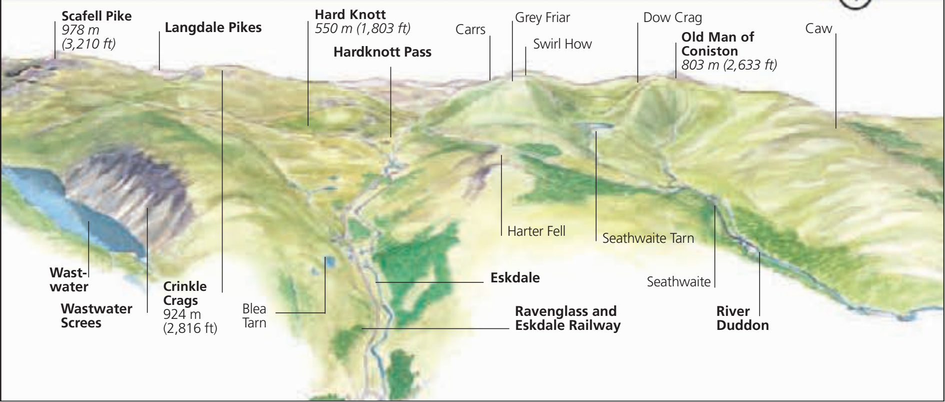
From Grange you can complete the circuit of Derwentwater along the western shore, or move southwards to the more open farmland around Seatoller. As you head south by road, look out for a National Trust sign *(see p29)* to the **Bowder Stone**, a delicately poised block weighing nearly 2,000 tonnes, which may have fallen from the crags above or been deposited by a glacier millions of years ago.

Two attractive hamlets in Borrowdale are **Rosthwaite** and **Stonethwaite**. Also worth a detour, preferably on foot, is Watendlath village, off a side road near the famous beauty spot of **Ashness Bridge**.

WALKING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

Typical Lake District stile over dry-stone wall

Two long-distance footpaths pass through the Lake District's most spectacular scenery. The 70 mile (112 km) Cumbrian Way runs from Carlisle to Ulverston via Keswick and Coniston. The western section of the Coast-to-Coast Walk *(see pp36–7)* passes through this area. There are hundreds of shorter walks along lake shores, nature trails or following more challenging uphill routes. Walkers should stick to paths to avoid erosion, and check weather conditions at National Park information centres.


④
Scafell Pike
978 m
(3,210 ft)
Langdale Pikes
Hard Knott
550 m (1,803 ft)
Hardknott Pass
Carrs
Grey Friar
Swirl How
Dow Crag
Old Man of Coniston
803 m (2,633 ft)
Caw
Harter Fell
Seathwaite Tarn
Wast-water
Wastwater Screes
Crinkle Crags
924 m
(2,816 ft)
Blea Tarn
Eskdale
Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway
Seathwaite
River Duddon

Convivial Wasdale Head Inn at Wasdale Head

Wastwater ⑪

Wasdale, Cumbria. ⇌ *Whitehaven.* ℹ *Barrowdale (01768 777294).*

A silent reflection of truly awesome surroundings, black, brooding **Wastwater** is a mysterious, evocative lake. The road from Nether Wasdale continues along its northwest side. Along its eastern flank loom walls of sheer scree over 600 m (2,000 ft) high. Beneath them the water looks inky black, whatever the weather, plunging an icy 80 m (260 ft) from the waterline to the bottom to form England's deepest lake. You can walk along the screes, but it is an uncomfortable and dangerous scramble. Boating on the lake is banned for conservation reasons, but fishing permits are available from the nearby National Trust camp site.

At **Wasdale Head** lies one of Britain's grandest views: the austere pyramid of **Great Gable,** centrepiece of a fine mountain composition, with the huge forms of Scafell and **Scafell Pike**. The scenery is utterly unspoilt, and the only buildings lie at the far end of the lake: an inn and a tiny church commemorating fallen climbers. Here the road ends, and you must turn back or take to your feet, following signs for Black Sail Pass and Ennerdale, or walk up the grand fells ahead. Wasdale's irresistible backdrop was the inspiration of the first serious British mountaineers, who flocked here during the 19th century, insouciantly clad in tweed jackets, carrying little more than a length of rope slung over their shoulders.

Eskdale ⑫

Cumbria. ⇌ *Ravenglass then narrow-gauge railway to Eskdale (Easter–Oct: daily; Dec–Feb: phone to check).* **www**.ravenglass-railway.co.uk ℹ *Barrowdale (01768 777294).* **www**.eskdale.info

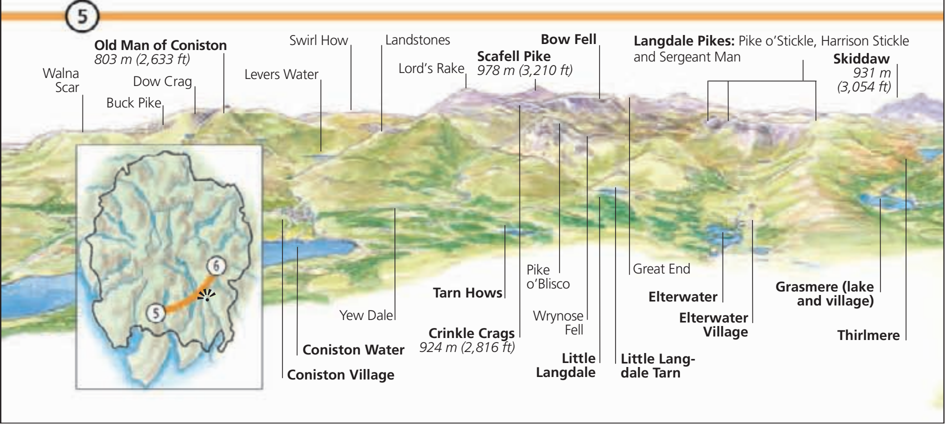
The pastoral delights of Eskdale are best encountered over the gruelling **Hardknott Pass**, which is the most taxing drive in the Lake District, with steep gradients. You can pause at the 393-m (1,291-ft) summit to explore the Roman **Hardknott Fort** or enjoy the lovely view. As you descend into Eskdale, rhododendrons and pines flourish in a landscape of small hamlets, narrow lanes and gentle farmland. The main settlements below are the attractive village of Boot and coastal Ravenglass, both with old corn mills.

Just south of Ravenglass is the impressive **Muncaster Castle**, the richly furnished home of the Pennington family. Another way to enjoy the scenery is to take the miniature railway (La'l Ratty) from Ravenglass to Dalegarth.

⌂ Muncaster Castle

Ravenglass. ***Tel*** *01229 717614.*
Castle ○ *mid-Mar–Oct: Sun–Fri (pm) & public hols.*
Garden ○ *Feb–Dec: daily.* 🔒 ✋
♿ *ground floor and garden.* ☕
www.muncaster.co.uk

Remains of the Roman Hardknott Fort, Eskdale


⑤
Walna Scar
Old Man of Coniston
803 m (2,633 ft)
Dow Crag
Buck Pike
Swirl How
Levers Water
Landstones
Lord's Rake
Bow Fell
Scafell Pike
978 m (3,210 ft)
Langdale Pikes: Pike o'Stickle, Harrison Stickle and Sergeant Man
Skiddaw
931 m (3,054 ft)
⑥
⑤
Great End
Pike o'Blisco
Tarn Hows
Elterwater
Grasmere (lake and village)
Elterwater Village
Yew Dale
Wrynose Fell
Crinkle Crags
924 m (2,816 ft)
Thirlmere
Coniston Water
Little Langdale
Little Langdale Tarn
Coniston Village

Autumnal view of Seathwaite, in the Duddon Valley, a popular centre for walkers and climbers

Duddon Valley ⑬

Cumbria. 🚆 *Foxfield, Ulverston.* ℹ *The Square, Broughton-in-Furness (01229 716115; Easter–Oct only).* **www**.duddonvalley.co.uk

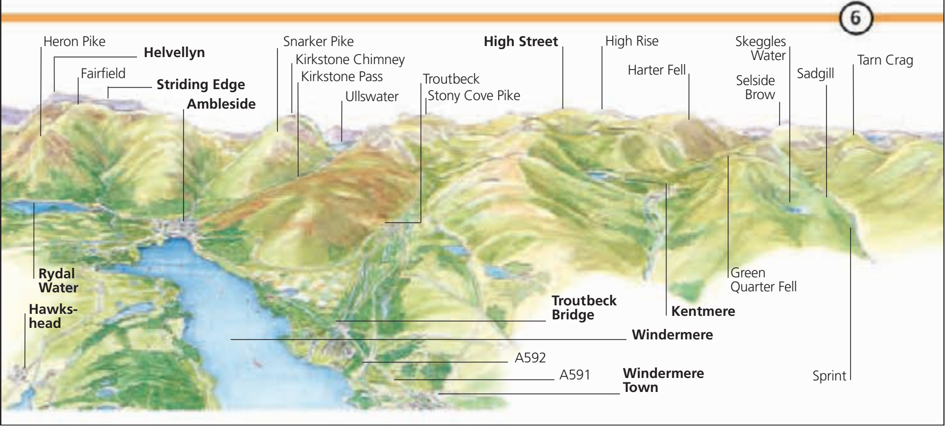
Also known as Dunnerdale, this picturesque tract of countryside inspired 35 of Wordsworth's sonnets *(see p366)*. The prettiest stretch lies between Ulpha and Cockley Beck. In autumn the colours of heather moors and a light sprinkling of birch trees are particularly beautiful. Stepping stones and bridges span the river at intervals, the most charming being Birk's Bridge, near Seathwaite. At the southern end of the valley, where the River Duddon meets the sea at Duddon Sands, is the pretty village of Broughton-in-Furness. Note the stone slabs used for fish on market day in the square.

Langdale ⑭

Cumbria. 🚆 *Windermere.* ℹ *Market Cross, Ambleside (015394 32582).* **www**.southlakeland.gov.uk

Stretching from Skelwith Bridge, where the Brathay surges powerfully over waterfalls, to the summits of Great Langdale is the two-pronged Langdale Valley. Walkers and climbers throng here to take on **Pavey Ark, Pike o'Stickle, Crinkle Crags** and **Bow Fell**. The local mountain rescue teams are the busiest in Britain.

Great Langdale is the more spectacular valley and it is often crowded, but quieter **Little Langdale** has many attractions too. It is worth completing the circuit back to Ambleside via the southern route, stopping at Blea Tarn. Reedy **Elterwater** is a picturesque spot, once a site of the gunpowder industry. Wrynose Pass, west of Little Langdale, climbs to 390 m (1,281 ft), a warm-up for Hardknott Pass further on. At its top is Three Shires Stone, marking the former boundary of the old counties of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire.


⑥
Heron Pike
Helvellyn
Fairfield
Striding Edge
Ambleside
Snarker Pike
Kirkstone Chimney
Kirkstone Pass
Ullswater
Troutbeck
Stony Cove Pike
High Street
High Rise
Harter Fell
Skeggles Water
Selside Brow
Sadgill
Tarn Crag
Rydal Water
Hawks-head
Green Quarter Fell
Troutbeck Bridge
Kentmere
Windermere
A592
A591
Windermere Town
Sprint

Rydal Water, one of the major attractions of the Lake District

Grasmere and Rydal ⓯

Cumbria. **Grasmere** 👥 *700.*
Rydal 👥 *100.* 🚌 *Grasmere.*
ℹ *Central Buildings, Market Cross, Ambleside (015394 32582).*
www.lake-district.gov.uk

The poet William Wordsworth lived in both these villages on the shores of two lakes. Fairfield, Nab Scar and Loughrigg Fell rise steeply above their reedy shores and offer good opportunities for walking. Grasmere is now a sizable settlement, and the famous Grasmere sports *(see p358)* attract large crowds every August.

The Wordsworth family is buried in St Oswald's Church, and crowds flock to the annual ceremony of strewing the church's earth floor with fresh rushes. Most visitors head for **Dove Cottage**, where the poet spent his most creative years. The museum in the barn behind includes such artefacts as the great man's socks. The Wordsworths moved to a larger house, **Rydal Mount**, in Rydal in 1813 and lived here until 1850. The grounds have waterfalls and a summerhouse. Dora's Field nearby is a blaze of daffodils in spring and Fairfield Horseshoe offers an energetic, challenging walk.

🏛 Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum
Off A591 nr Grasmere. ***Tel*** *015394 35544.* ○ *daily.* ● *24–26 Dec, mid-Jan–mid-Feb.* 🚫 ✋ ☕ 🛍
www.wordsworth.org.uk

🏛 Rydal Mount
Rydal. ***Tel*** *015394 33002.* ○ *Mar–Oct: daily; Nov–Feb: Wed–Mon.* ● *25–26 Dec.* 🚫 ♿ *limited.* 🛍

Ambleside ⓰

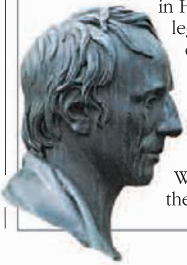
Cumbria. 👥 *3,400.* 🚌
ℹ *Central Buildings, Market Cross (015394 32582).* 🧺 *Wed.*
www.lake-district.gov.uk

Ambleside has good road connections to all parts of the Lakes and is an attractive base, especially for walkers and climbers. Mainly Victorian in character, it has a good range of outdoor clothing, crafts and specialist food shops. An enterprising little cinema and a summer classical music festival add life in the evenings. Sights in town are small-scale: the remnants of the Roman fort of Galava, AD 79, Stock Ghyll Force waterfall and **Bridge House**, now a National Trust information centre.

Environs: Within easy reach of Ambleside is the wooded Rothay valley. At nearby Troutbeck is the restored farmhouse of **Townend**, dating from 1626, whose interior gives an insight into Lakeland domestic life.

The tiny Bridge House over Stock Beck in Ambleside

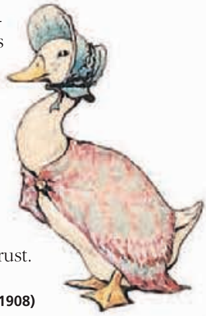
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770–1850)



Best known of the Romantic poets, Wordsworth was born in the Lake District and spent most of his life there. After school in Hawkshead and a period at Cambridge, a legacy enabled him to pursue his literary career. He settled at Dove Cottage with his sister Dorothy and in 1802 married an old school friend, Mary Hutchinson. They lived simply, walking, bringing up their children and receiving visits from poets such as Coleridge and de Quincey. Wordsworth's prose works include one of the earliest guidebooks to the Lake District.

BEATRIX POTTER AND THE LAKE DISTRICT

Although best known for her children's stories with characters such as Peter Rabbit and Jemima Puddleduck, which she also illustrated, Beatrix Potter (1866–1943) became a champion of conservation in the Lake District after moving there in 1906. She married William Heelis, devoted herself to farming, and was an expert on Herdwick sheep. To conserve her beloved countryside, she donated land to the National Trust.



Cover illustration of *Jemima Puddleduck* (1908)

🏛 **Townend**
(NT) Troutbeck, Windermere. ***Tel*** *015394 32628.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Wed–Sun; Sun & bank hol Mon: pm.* ♿

Windermere ⑰

Cumbria. 🚆 *Windermere.* 🚌 *Victoria St.* ℹ *Victoria St (015394 46499) or Glebe Rd, Bowness-on-Windermere (015394 42895).*

At over 10 miles (16 km) long, this dramatic watery expanse is England's largest mere. Industrial magnates built mansions around its shores long before the railway arrived. Stately **Brockhole**, now a national park visitor centre, was one such grand estate. When the railway reached Windermere in 1847, it enabled crowds of workers to visit the area on day trips.

Today, a year-round car ferry service connects the lake's east and west shores (it runs between Ferry Nab and Ferry House), and summer steamers link Lakeside, Bowness and Ambleside on the north-south axis. Belle Isle, a wooded island on which a unique round house stands, is one of the lake's most attractive features, but landing is not permitted. **Fell Foot Park** is at the south end of the lake, and there are good walks on the northwest shore. A quite stunning viewpoint is Orrest Head 238 m (784 ft) northeast of Windermere town.

Environs: Bowness-on-Windermere, on the east shore, is a popular centre. Many of its buildings display Victorian details, and St Martin's Church dates back to the 15th century. The **Blackwell Arts and Crafts House** is one of Britain's most beautiful houses from the early 20th century. It still boasts all of its original features. The **Windermere Steamboat Museum** has a collection of superbly restored craft, and one of these, *Swallow*, makes regular lake trips. The **World of Beatrix Potter** recreates her characters in an exhibition, and a film tells her life story.

Beatrix Potter wrote many of her books at **Hill Top**, the 17th-century farmhouse at Near Sawrey, northwest of Windermere. The house is furnished with many of Potter's possessions and left as it was in her lifetime. The **Beatrix Potter Gallery** in Hawkshead holds annual exhibitions of her manuscripts and illustrations.

ℹ **Brockhole Visitor Centre**
On A591. ***Tel*** *015394 40800.*
○ *Feb–Nov: daily.* ♿ ☕ 🛍

🍁 **Fell Foot Park**
(NT) Newby Bridge. ***Tel*** *015395 31273.* ○ *daily.* ♿ ☕

🏠 **Blackwell Arts and Crafts House**
Bowness-on-Windermere.
Tel *015394 46139.* ○ *daily.* ♿ ☕

🏛 **Windermere Steamboat Museum**
Rayrigg Rd, Windermere. ***Tel*** *015394 45565.* ● *for refurbishment – call to check.* ♿ ♿ ♿ ☕ 🛍

🏛 **World of Beatrix Potter**
The Old Laundry, Crag Brow. ***Tel*** *015394 88444.* ○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec, mid-Jan–mid-Feb.* ♿ ☕ ♿ 🛍

🏠 **Hill Top**
(NT) Near Sawrey, Ambleside. ***Tel*** *015394 36269.* ○ *Feb–Oct: Sat–Thu (house); Feb–Dec: daily (garden).* ♿

🏛 **Beatrix Potter Gallery**
(NT) The Square, Hawkshead.
Tel *015394 36355.* ○ *Feb–Oct: Sat–Thu.* ♿ 🛍

Boats moored along the shore at Ambleside, the north end of Windermere

Peaceful Coniston Water, the setting of Arthur Ransome's novel, *Swallows and Amazons* (1930)

Coniston Water ⓲

Cumbria. 🚆 *Windermere then bus.* 🚌 *Ambleside then bus.* ℹ *Coniston car park, Ruskin Ave (015394 41533);* **Coniston Boating Centre** ***Tel*** *015394 41366.* **www**.conistontic.org

For the finest view of this stretch of water just outside the Lake District, you need to climb. The 19th-century art critic, writer and philosopher John Ruskin had a fine view from his house, **Brantwood**, where his paintings can be seen today. Contemporary art exhibitions and events take place throughout the year.

An enjoyable excursion is the summer lake trip from Coniston Pier on the National Trust steam yacht, *Gondola*, calling at Brantwood. Alternatively, boats can be hired at the Coniston Boating Centre. The lake was also the scene of Donald Campbell's fatal attempt on the world water speed record in 1967. The green slate village of Coniston, once a centre for copper-mining, now caters for walkers.

To the northwest is **Hawkshead**, a quaint, traffic-free village with timber-framed houses. To the south is the vast Grizedale Forest, dotted with woodland sculptures.

Just north of Coniston Water is the man-made **Tarn Hows**, a landscaped tarn surrounded by woods. There is a pleasant climb up the 803 m (2,635 ft) Old Man of Coniston.

🏛 **Brantwood**
Off B5285, nr Coniston. ***Tel*** *015394 41396.* ○ *mid-Mar–mid-Nov: 11am–5pm daily; mid-Nov–mid-Mar: 11am–4:30pm Wed–Sun.* ▨ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 ♿ *limited.*

Kendal ⓳

Cumbria. 👥 *28,000.* 🚆 ℹ *Town Hall, Highgate (01539 797516).* 🧺 *Wed, Sat.* **www**.southlakeland.gov.uk

A busy market town, Kendal is the administrative centre of the region and the southern gateway to the Lake District. Built in grey limestone, it has an arts centre, the **Brewery**, and a central area which is best enjoyed on foot. **Abbot Hall**, built in 1759, has paintings by Turner and Romney, as well as Gillows furniture. In addition, the hall's stable block contains the **Museum of Lakeland Life**, with occasional workshops demonstrating local crafts and trades. There are dioramas of geology and wildlife in the **Museum of Natural History and Archaeology**. About 3 miles (5 km) south of the town is 14th-century **Sizergh Castle**, with a fortified tower, carved fireplaces and a lovely garden.

SUPERIOR QUALITY
KENDAL MINT CAKE
THE PACK FULL OF ENERGY
Daniel Quiggin & Son

Kendal mint cake, the famous lake-land energy-booster for walkers

🏛 **Abbot Hall Art Gallery & Museum of Lakeland Life**
Kendal. ***Tel*** *01539 722464.* ○ *mid-Jan–mid-Dec: Mon–Sat.* ▨ ♿ *gallery.* ⚑ *by arrangement.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.abbothall.org.uk

🏛 **Kendal Museum of Natural History and Archaeology**
Station Rd. ***Tel*** *01539 721374.* ○ *Thu–Sat.* ● *Christmas week.* ▨ 🛍 **www**.kendalmuseum.org.uk

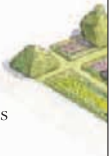
⌂ **Sizergh Castle**
(NT) off A591 & A590. ***Tel*** *015395 60951.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Sun–Thu.* ▨ ♿ *ground floor & grounds.* ☕ 🛍

Furness Peninsula ⓴

Cumbria. 🚆 🚌 *Barrow-in-Furness.* ℹ *Forum 28, Duke St, Barrow-in-Furness (01229 876505).* **www**.barrowbc.org.uk

Barrow-in-Furness *(see p349)* is the peninsula's main town. Its **Dock Museum**, built over a Victorian dock where ships were repaired, traces the history of Barrow using interactive computer displays.

Ruins of the red sandstone walls of **Furness Abbey** remain in the wooded Vale of Deadly Nightshade, with a small exhibition of monastic life. The historic town of Ulverston received its charter in 1280. Stan Laurel, of Laurel



and Hardy fame, was born here in 1890. His memorabilia **museum** has a cinema. In the nearby village of Gleaston is the **Gleaston Water Mill**, a 400-year-old, working corn mill.

Dock Museum
North Rd, Barrow-in-Furness. ***Tel*** *01229 876400.* ○ *Easter–Oct: Tue–Sun; Nov–Easter: Wed–Sun; public hols.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.dockmuseum.org.uk

Furness Abbey
(EH) Vale of Deadly Nightshade. ***Tel*** *01229 823420.* ○ *Easter–Jun & Sep: Thu–Mon; Jul–Aug: daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 🛍 ♿ *limited.*

Gleaston Water Mill
Gleaston. ***Tel*** *01229 869244.* ○ *Tue–Sun.* **www**.watermill.co.uk

Laurel and Hardy Museum
Upper Brook St, Ulverston. ***Tel*** *01229 582292.* ○ *Feb–Dec: daily; Jan: Thu, Sat & Sun.* ● *25–26 Dec.* ♿

Staircase at Holker Hall

Cartmel ㉑

Cumbria. *700.* ℹ *Main St, Grange-over-Sands (015395 34026).* **www**.grangeoversands.net

The highlight of this pretty village is its 12th-century **priory**, one of the finest Cumbrian churches. Little remains of the original priory except the gatehouse in the village centre. The restored church has an attractive east window, a stone-carved 14th-century tomb, and beautiful misericords.

Cartmel also boasts a small racecourse. The village has given its name to its surroundings, a hilly district of green farmland with mixed woodland and limestone scars.

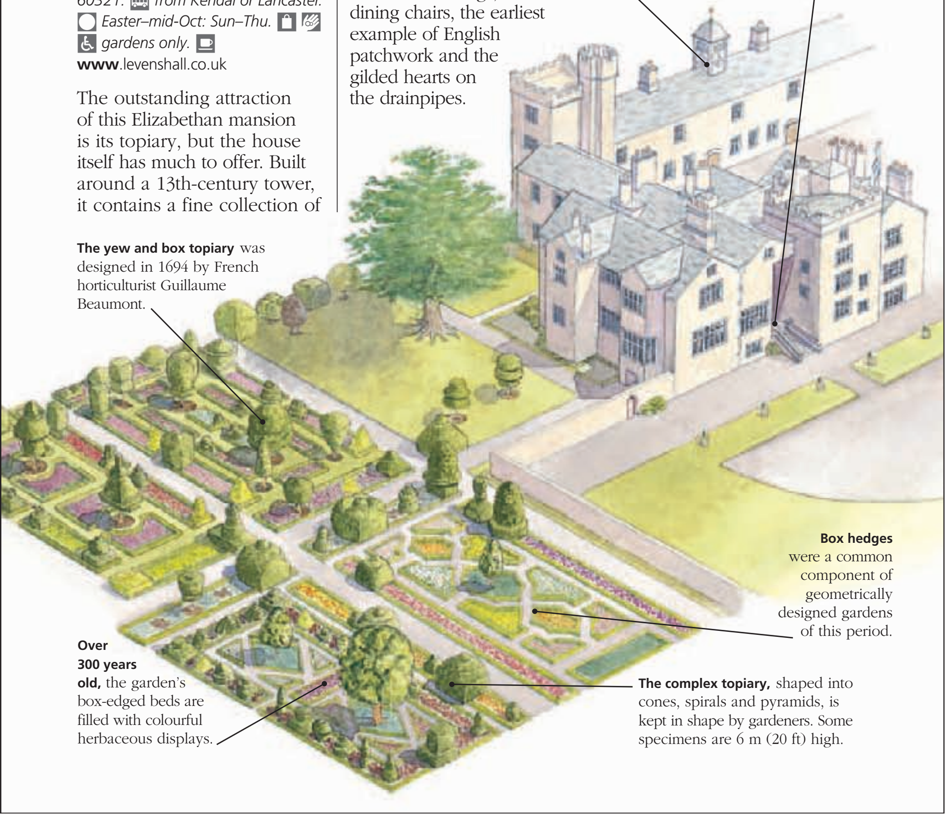
A major local attraction is **Holker Hall**, former residence of the Dukes of Devonshire. Inside are lavishly furnished rooms, with fine marble fireplaces, and a superb oak staircase. Outside are stunning gardens and a deer park.

Holker Hall
Cark-in-Cartmel. ***Tel*** *015395 58328.* ○ *Mar–Oct: Sun–Fri.* ♿ *limited.* *by arrangement.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.holker-hall.co.uk

Levens Hall ㉒

Nr Kendal, Cumbria. ***Tel*** *015395 60321.* 🚌 *from Kendal or Lancaster.* ○ *Easter–mid-Oct: Sun–Thu.* 🛍 ♿ *gardens only.* ☕ **www**.levenshall.co.uk

The outstanding attraction of this Elizabethan mansion is its topiary, but the house itself has much to offer. Built around a 13th-century tower, it contains a fine collection of Jacobean furniture and watercolours by Peter de Wint (1784–1849). Also of note are the ornate ceilings, Charles II dining chairs, the earliest example of English patchwork and the gilded hearts on the drainpipes.



The 18th-century Turret Clock has a single hand, a common design of the period.

Main entrance

The yew and box topiary was designed in 1694 by French horticulturist Guillaume Beaumont.

Box hedges were a common component of geometrically designed gardens of this period.

Over 300 years old, the garden's box-edged beds are filled with colourful herbaceous displays.

The complex topiary, shaped into cones, spirals and pyramids, is kept in shape by gardeners. Some specimens are 6 m (20 ft) high.

Morecambe Bay, looking northwest towards Barrow-in-Furness

Morecambe Bay ㉓

Lancs. 🚆 *Morecambe.* ⛴ *Heysham (to Isle of Man).* ℹ *Marine Rd. (01524 582808).* **www**.visitlancashire.com

The best way to explore Morecambe Bay is by train from Ulverston to Arnside. The track follows a series of low viaducts across a huge expanse of glistening tidal flats where thousands of wading birds feed and breed. The bay is one of the most important bird reservations in the country. On the Cumbrian side of the bay, retirement homes have expanded the sedate Victorian resort of Grange-over-Sands. Nearby, **Hampsfield Fell** and **Humphrey Head Point** give fine views along the bay.

Leighton Hall ㉔

Carnforth, Lancashire. ***Tel** 01524 734 474.* 🚌 *to Yealand Conyers (from Lancaster).* ○ *May–Sep: 2–5pm Tue–Fri & bank hols (also Sun in Aug).* ♿ *ground floor only.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.leightonhall.co.uk

Leighton Hall's estate dates back to the 13th century, but most of the building is 19th-century, including its Neo-Gothic façade. It is owned by the Gillow family, of the Lancastrian furniture business, whose products are prized antiques. Excellent pieces can be seen here, including a ladies' work-box inlaid with biblical scenes. In the afternoons the hall's large collection of birds of prey display their aerial prowess.

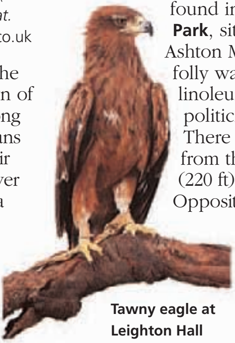
Lancaster ㉕

Lancashire. 👥 *50,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *Meeting House Lane (01524 582394).* ⊖ *Mon–Sat.* **www**.visitlancaster.co.uk

Despite its size, the small county town of Lancaster has a long history. The Romans named it after their camp over the River Lune. Originally a defensive site, it developed into a prosperous port largely on the proceeds of the slave trade. Today, its university and cultural life still thrive. The Norman **Lancaster Castle** was expanded in the 14th and 16th centuries. It has been a crown court and a prison since the 13th century. The Shire Hall is decorated with 600 heraldic shields. Some fragments from Hadrian's Tower are 2,000 years old.

The nearby priory church of **St Mary** is on Castle Hill. Its main features include a Saxon doorway and carved 14th-century choir stalls. There is an outstanding museum of furniture in the 17th-century **Judge's Lodgings**, while the **Maritime Museum** contains displays on the port's history. The **City Museum**, based in the old town hall, concentrates on the history of Lancaster.

The splendid **Lune Aqueduct** carries the canal over the River Lune on five wide arches. Other attractions are found in **Williamson Park**, site of the 1907 Ashton Memorial. This folly was built by the linoleum magnate and politician, Lord Ashton. There are fine views from the top of this 67 m (220 ft) domed structure. Opposite is a tropical butterfly house.

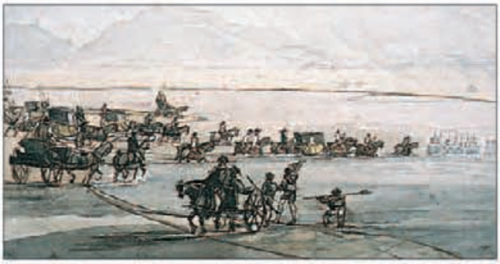


Tawny eagle at Leighton Hall

Environs: North of Lancaster, the small town of **Carnforth** has some interesting sights. **Leighton Moss Nature Reserve** is the largest reedbed in the northwest and home to birds such as Breeding Bitterns

CROSSING THE SANDS

Morecambe Bay sands are very dangerous. Travellers used to cut across the bay at low tide to shorten the long trail around the Kent estuary. Many perished as they were caught by rising tides or quicksand, and sea fogs hid the paths. Locals who knew the bay became guides, and today you can travel with a guide from Kents Bank to Hest Bank near Arnside.



***The High Sheriff of Lancaster Crossing Morecambe Sands* (anon)**

and Bearded Tits. The restored **Carnforth Station** is the setting for David Lean's classic film *Brief Encounter*, shot here in 1945. Information on these and other Carnforth sights is available at www.visitlancashire.com

Lancaster Castle
Castle Parade. ***Tel*** *01524 64998.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* ⊘ ☞ *only (limited when court is in session).* 🛍 **www**.lancastercastle.com

Judge's Lodgings
Church St. ***Tel*** *01524 32808.* ○ *Apr–Jun, Oct: daily (Sat & Sun: pm only); Jul–Sep: daily.* ● *Nov–Good Fri.* ⊘ 🛍 ♿ *limited.*

Maritime Museum
Custom House, St George's Quay. ***Tel*** *01524 64637.* ○ *daily (Nov–Easter: pm).* ● *24–26, 31 Dec, 1 Jan.* ⊘ ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.lancashire.gov.uk

City Museum
Market Sq. ***Tel*** *01524 64637.* ○ *Mon–Sat.* ● *24 Dec–2 Jan.* ♿ 🛍

Williamson Park
Wyresdale Rd. ***Tel*** *01524 33318.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* ⊘ ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍

Ribble Valley ㉖

Lancashire. ⇌ *Clitheroe.* ℹ *Market Place, Clitheroe (01200 425566).* ⊖ *Tue, Thu, Sat.* **www**.ribblevalley.gov.uk

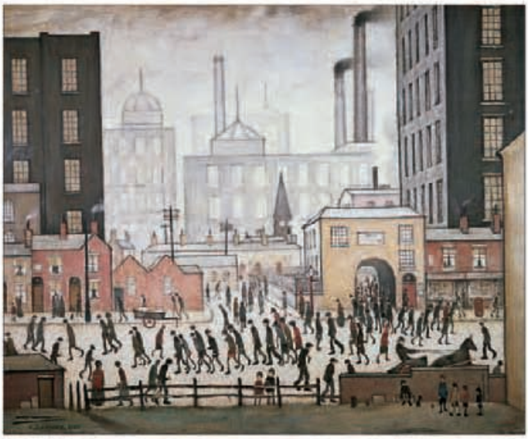
Clitheroe, a small market town with a hilltop castle, is a good centre for exploring the Ribble Valley's rivers and old villages, such as Slaidburn. Ribchester has a **Roman Museum**, and there is a ruined **Cistercian abbey** at Whalley. To the east is 560 m (1,830 ft) Pendle Hill, with a Bronze Age burial mound at its peak.

Roman Museum
Ribchester. ***Tel*** *01254 878261.* ○ *daily.* ⊘ ♿ ☞ *by arrangement.* 🛍

Whalley Abbey
Whalley. ***Tel*** *01254 828400.* ○ *daily.* ● *24 Dec–2 Jan.* ⊘ ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.whalleyabbey.co.uk

Blackpool ㉗

Lancashire. 👥 *150,000.* ✈ ⇌ 🚌 ℹ *Clifton St (01253 478222).* **www**.visitblackpool.com



Coming from the Mill **(1930) by L S Lowry *(See p375)***

Blackpool is no longer the apogee of seaside entertainment that it once was, but it remains a unique experience. A wall of amusement arcades, piers, bingo halls and fast-food stalls stretch behind the sands. At night, entertainers strut their stuff under the bright lights. The town attracts thousands of visitors in September and October when the Illuminations trace the skeleton of the 158 m (518 ft) Blackpool Tower. Blackpool's resort life dates back to the 18th century, but it burst into prominence when the railway first arrived in 1840, bringing Lancastrian workers to their holiday resort.

Blackpool Tower, painted gold for its centenary in 1994

Salford Quays ㉘

Salford. 🚋 *Harbour City (from Manchester).* ℹ *The Lowry, Pier 8 (0161 848 8601).* **www**.thequays.org.uk

The Quays, to the west of Manchester city centre (15 minutes by tram), were once the terminal docks for the **Manchester Ship Canal**. After the docks closed in 1982, the area became sadly run down but since the 1990s a massive redevelopment plan has changed the area dramatically. A world-class business, cultural and residential area of great architectural and regional significance has been created and more people are now employed at the Quays than in its heyday as a major seaport.

There is a wealth of entertainment, leisure and cultural facilities on offer, including **The Lowry** *(see p375)*, the **Manchester United Museum** *(see p375)*, the **Imperial War Museum North** *(see p375)*, the **Salford Museum and Art Gallery** and The Lowry Outlet Mall, as well as numerous bars, restaurants and shops.

There are various water-based activities and ship-canal cruises. The Quays was also a venue for the Commonwealth Games in 2002, and now hosts the Triathlon World Cup.

Salford Museum and Art Gallery
Peel Park, The Crescent. ***Tel*** *0161 778 0800.* ○ *Mon–Fri, Sat–Sun pm.* ● *25, 26 Dec.*

Manchester ㉙

Sign for the John Rylands Library

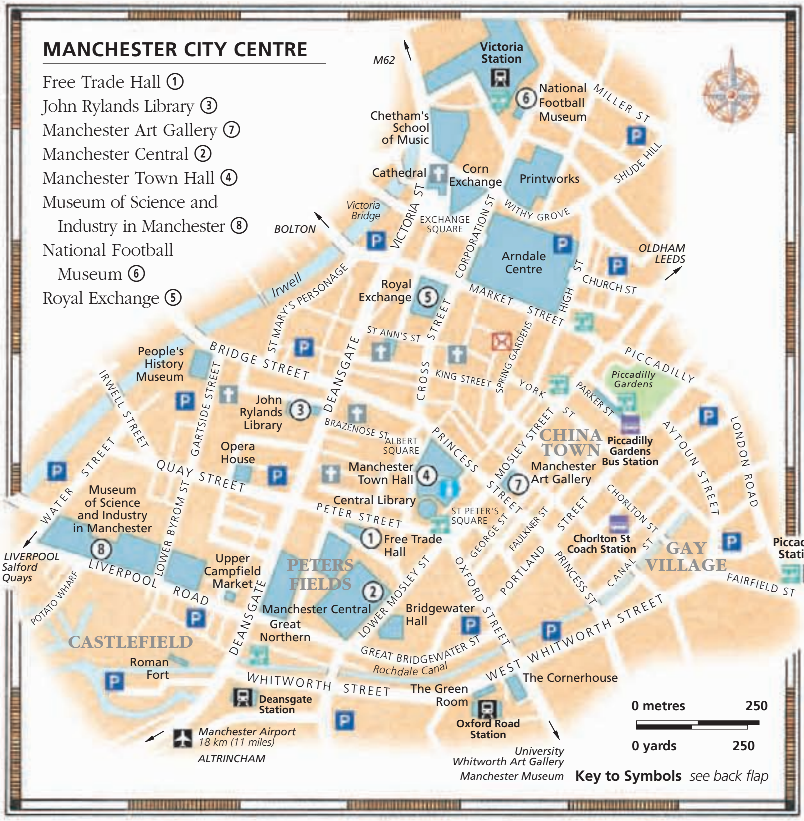
Manchester dates back to Roman times, when in AD 79, Agricola set up a base called Mamucium. It rose to prominence in the late 18th century, when Richard Arkwright introduced cotton processing. By 1830, the first railway linked Manchester and Liverpool, and in 1894 the Manchester Ship Canal *(see p371)* opened, allowing cargovessels inland. Civic buildings sprang up from the proceeds of cotton wealth, but these were in stark contrast to the slums of the millworkers. Social discontent led writers, politicians and reformers to espouse liberal or radical causes.

The achievements of football team Manchester United and the international success of bands such as The Smiths and The Stone Roses, gave Manchester a cachet of cool during the 1980s and 1990s. Devastation caused by an IRA car-bombing of the city centre in 1996 was seized as an opportunity to redevelop the main shopping areas. This regeneration has since spread to other areas of the city, notably the old dockside area of Salford Quays.

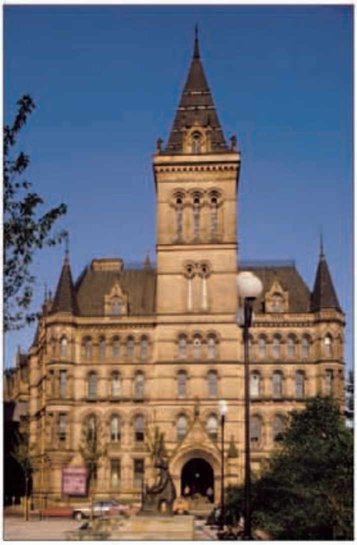
The National Football Museum (formerly Urbis)

Exploring Manchester

Manchester is a fine, compact city with much to see in its central areas. The Victorian era of cotton wealth has gifted the city an imposing heritage of industrial architecture, much of which is providing sites for development. The former central railway station, for example, is now **Manchester Central**, a huge exhibition and conference complex. Among other fine 19th-century buildings are the dramatic **John Rylands Library** on Deansgate, founded over 100 years ago by the widow of a local cotton millionaire, and the 1856 Renaissance-style **Free Trade Hall**, now the Radisson Edwardian hotel, which stands on the site of the Peterloo Massacre.


MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE
Free Trade Hall ①
John Rylands Library ③
Manchester Art Gallery ⑦
Manchester Central ②
Manchester Town Hall ④
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester ⑧
National Football Museum ⑥
Royal Exchange ⑤
M62
Victoria Station
National Football Museum
MILLER ST
Chetham's School of Music
Cathedral
Corn Exchange
Printworks
SHUDE HILL
Victoria Bridge
VICTORIA ST
EXCHANGE SQUARE
CORPORATION ST
WITHY GROVE
BOLTON
Arndale Centre
OLDHAM LEEDS
CHURCH ST
HIGH ST
Irwell
ST MARY'S PERSONAGE
Royal Exchange
MARKET STREET
ST ANN'S ST
CROSS STREET
KING STREET
SPRING GARDENS
YORK ST
PICCADILLY
Piccadilly Gardens
PARKER ST
People's History Museum
BRIDGE STREET
DEANSGATE
IRWELL STREET
GARTSIDE STREET
John Rylands Library
BRAZENOSE ST
ALBERT SQUARE
PRINCESS STREET
MOSLEY STREET
CHINA TOWN
Piccadilly Gardens Bus Station
AYTOUN STREET
LONDON ROAD
Opera House
Manchester Town Hall
Manchester Art Gallery
QUAY STREET
WATER STREET
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester
BYROM ST
Central Library
PETER STREET
ST PETER'S SQUARE
GEORGE ST
FAULKNER ST
CHORLTON ST
Free Trade Hall
Chorlton St Coach Station
GAY VILLAGE
Piccadilly Station
LIVERPOOL Salford Quays
LIVERPOOL ROAD
LOWER BYROM ST
Upper Campfield Market
PETERS FIELDS
LOWER MOSLEY ST
OXFORD STREET
PORTLAND STREET
PRINCESS ST
CANAL ST
FAIRFIELD ST
POTATO WHARF
Manchester Central
Great Northern
Bridgewater Hall
CASTLEFIELD
GREAT BRIDGEWATER ST
Rochdale Canal
WHITWORTH STREET WEST
WHITWORTH STREET
The Cornerhouse
Roman Fort
Deansgate Station
The Green Room
Oxford Road Station
Manchester Airport 18 km (11 miles)
ALTRINCHAM
University Whitworth Art Gallery Manchester Museum
0 metres 250
0 yards 250
Key to Symbols see back flap

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp582–585 and pp635–638



The Neo-Gothic Town Hall by Alfred Waterhouse

🏛 Manchester Town Hall

Albert Square. ***Tel*** *0161 234 5000.* ○ *Mon–Fri.* ♿ ☛ *once a month on Wed & Sat – call 0161 440 0277.*

Manchester's majestic town hall was designed by Liverpool-born Alfred Waterhouse (1830–1905), an architect who would later find fame with his Natural History Museum in London. Waterhouse won the commission for the building in an architectural competition, his design finding favour for making best use of the awkward triangular site.

The building was completed in 1877 in an English Gothic style with its roots in the 13th century. Tours are available, but visitors can also explore the building on their own. Sign in inside the main entrance, where a statue of General Agricola, the Roman who founded Manchester in AD 79, looks down on passersby. The highlight is the Great Hall adorned by 12 murals painted by Ford Maddox Brown, the celebrated Pre- Raphaelite painter.

Throughout the building the decoration includes numerous examples of cotton flowers and bees, the latter a symbol of Manchester's industriousness. In the square in front of the town hall is Manchester's **Albert Memorial**, dedicated to the consort of Queen Victoria, which is similar in style but predates the one in London's Hyde Park.

🏛 Royal Exchange Theatre

St Ann's Square. ***Tel*** *0161 833 9833.* ○ *Mon–Sat.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.royalexchange.co.uk

Built in 1729, the Manchester Royal Exchange, as it was then known, was once claimed to be the "biggest room in the world". It was built as the main trading hall of the cotton industry and at the end of the 19th century it was reckoned that over 80 percent of world trade in cloth was controlled from these premises. During the Second World War the building was severely damaged by bombs. This coincided with the decline of the cotton trade in the United Kingdom and when the Exchange was rebuilt it was reduced to half its original size. The doors were finally closed to trading in 1968. A daring scheme saw the main hall converted into a theatre in the mid-1970s with the auditorium enclosed in a high-tech structure supported by the old building's pillars; it nestles like a lunar module beneath the great dome. The rest of the Exchange building contains an arcade, shops and cafés.

🏛 National Football Museum

Cathedral Gdns. ***Tel*** *0161 605 8200.* ● *until summer 2011; call for opening details.* ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍

The National Football Museum has relocated from its original location in Preston to Manchester. It is housed in a striking, ski slope-shaped glass building, originally the Urbis museum which opened in 2002. The visit begins with a glass-elevator-ride up the incline, then proceeds down through three staggered floors of exhibits.

The museum has a huge collection of football memorabilia. Especially worth admiring is the ball from the 1966 World Cup Final.

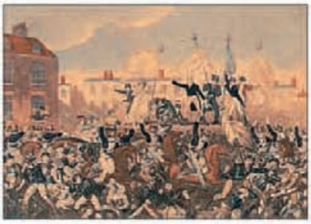
Across the plaza from the museum is **Manchester Cathedral**, which largely dates from the 19th century but stands on a site that has been occupied by a church for over a millennium.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Manchester. 👥 *2.5 million.* ✈ *Off M56 11 miles (18 km) S Manchester.* 🚆 *Piccadilly, Victoria, Oxford Rd.* 🚌 *Coach station: Chorlton St Bus station: Piccadilly Gdns, Shude Hill* 🚋 *Market St, Piccadilly Gdns.* ℹ *0871 222 8223.* 🛒 *daily.* **www**.visitmanchester.com

THE PETERLOO MASSACRE

In 1819, the working conditions of Manchester's factory workers were so bad that social tensions reached breaking point. On 16 August, 50,000 people assembled in St Peter's Field to protest at the oppressive Corn Laws. Initially peaceful, the mood darkened and the poorly trained mounted troops panicked, charging the crowd with their sabres. Eleven were killed and many wounded. The incident was called Peterloo (the Battle of Waterloo had taken place in 1815). Reforms such as the Factory Act came in that year.



G Cruikshank's Peterloo Massacre cartoon

Museum of Science and Industry, set in old passenger railway buildings

Manchester Art Gallery

Mosley St & Princess St. ***Tel*** *0161 235 8888.* ○ *Tue–Sun.* ● *Mon (except Bank Holidays), 24–26, 31 Dec, 1 Jan, Good Fri.* ✋ ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.manchestergalleries.org

The gallery reopened in summer 2002, doubling its display space after a £35 million makeover and a brand new extension by architect Sir Michael Hopkins. The original building was designed by Sir Charles Barry (1795–1860) in 1824 and contains an excellent collection of British art, notably Pre-Raphaelites such as Holman Hunt and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Early Italian, Flemish and French Schools are also represented.

The gallery has a fine collection of decorative arts, from the Greeks to Picasso to contemporary craftworkers, in the Gallery of Craft & Design. There is also a changing programme of special exhibitions in two fantastic galleries on the top floor. Most exhibitions are free, and there is a programme of accompanying events for adults and families.

A lively space called the Clore Interactive Gallery offers a combination of real artworks and hands-on activities for children.

Museum of Science and Industry

Liverpool Rd. ***Tel*** *0161 832 2244.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🍴 🛍 **www**.msim.org.uk

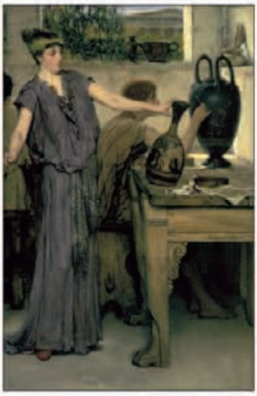
One of the largest science museums in the world, the spirit of scientific enterprise and industrial might of Manchester's heyday is conveyed here. Among the best sections are the Power Hall, a collection of working steam engines, the Electricity Gallery, tracing the history of domestic power, and an exhibition on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. A collection of planes that made flying history are displayed in the Air and Space Gallery.

Manchester Museum

Oxford Road. ***Tel*** *0161 275 2634,* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.museum.manchester.ac.uk

Part of Manchester University, this venerable museum (opened 1885) houses around six million items from all ages and all over the world, but it specializes in Egyptology and zoology. The collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts is one of the largest in the United Kingdom and numbers about 20,000 objects including monumental stone sculpture and mummies, displayed with their coffins and funerary goods. There are also various sections that deal with funerary masks, tomb models and mummified animals. The zoological collections number over 600,000 objects, ranging from stuffed animals to a cast of one of the most complete skeletons of a T Rex dinosaur, which was added to the museum in November 2004.

The original museum building was designed by Alfred Water- house, the same architect responsible for the city's magnificent Town Hall *(see p373).*

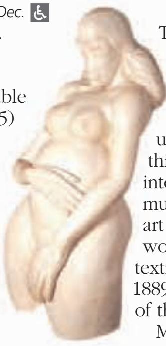


Lawrence Alma-Tadema, *Etruscan Vase Painters*, Manchester Art Gallery

Whitworth Art Gallery

University of Manchester, Oxford Rd. ***Tel*** *0161 275 7450.* ○ *daily (Sun: pm).* ● *24 Dec–2 Jan, Good Fri.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk

The Stockport-born machine tool manufacturer and engineer Sir Joseph Whitworth bequeathed money for this gallery, originally intended to be a museum of industrial art and design that would inspire the city's textile trade. Founded in 1889, it has been a part of the University of Manchester since 1958. The fine red-brick building is from the Edwardian period, while the modern interior dates from the 1960s.



Jacob Epstein's *Genesis*, Whitworth Art Gallery

The gallery houses a superb collection of drawings, sculpture, contemporary art, textiles and prints. Jacob Epstein's *Genesis* nude occupies the entrance, and there is an important collection of British watercolours by Turner *(see p91)*, Girtin and others. Look out for the Japanese woodcuts and the Collection of historic and modern wallpapers, built up from donations from wallpaper manufacturers, as well as through the gallery's active Collecting Policy.

There is a well-developed Education Department that organizes a full programme of activities for groups and individuals of all ages and abilities, for both formal and informal learning.

Exterior of the Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind to represent a globe shattered by conflict

🏛 Lowry Centre

Pier 8, Salford Quays. ***Tel** 0843 2086000.* ○ *daily. Admission free, but donations requested.* ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.thelowry.com.

On a prominent site beside the Manchester Ship Canal, the Lowry is a shimmering, silvery arts and entertainment complex that combines two theatres, a restaurant, terrace bars and cafes, art galleries and a shop.

The centre is named after celebrated reclusive artist Laurence Stephen Lowry (1887–1976), who was born locally and lived all his life in the Manchester area. A rent collector by day, in his leisure hours he painted cityscapes dominated by the smoking chimneys of industry beneath heavy soot filled skies.

However, he is most famous as a painter of "matchstick men", the term frequently applied to the crowds of slight and ghostly figures peopling his canvases. Some of Lowry's work is displayed in one of the galleries here; another hosts regularly changing temporary exhibitions. There is also a room where a 20-minute documentary "Meet Mr Lowry" is screened throughout the day.

The centre provides many facilities and activities for children, and is perfect for a family day out.

🏛 Imperial War Museum North

Trafford Wharf Road, Salford Quays. ***Tel** 0161 836 4000.* ○ *daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.iwm.org.uk.

This most striking piece of modern architecture comes courtesy of Daniel Libeskind, the architect nominated to design a replacement for New York's World Trade Centre. His Manchester building is a waterfront collision of three great aluminium shards, representing a globe shattered by conflict. Inside, a vast, irregular space is used to display a small but well presented collection of military hardware and ephemera, with nine "silos" devoted to exhibits on people's experiences of war.

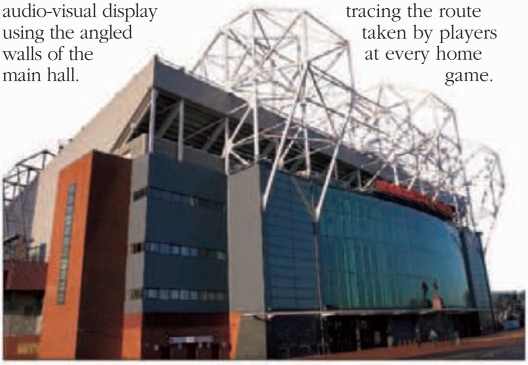
On the hour the lights are extinguished for an audio-visual display using the angled walls of the main hall. As visitors leave they are invited to take the elevator up the 55-metre (180-ft) "Air Shard" for views over the city.

🏛 Manchester United Museum

Salford Quays. ***Tel** 0870 442 1994.* ○ *daily (except match days). Tours must be booked in advance.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.manutd.com

Premier League football (soccer) team Manchester United's ground Old Trafford also includes a purpose-built museum. In addition to the historic displays there is much interactive fun such as a chance to test your own penalty-taking skills.

The museum tour takes in the dressing rooms, the trophy room and the players' lounge and culminates in a walk down the tunnel tracing the route taken by players at every home game.



Manchester United Museum on the grounds of Old Trafford football stadium

Liverpool ㉚

Liver Bird on the Royal Liver Building

Traces of settlement on Merseyside date back to the 1st century. In 1207 “Livpul”, a fishing village, was granted a charter by King John. The population was only 1,000 in Stuart times, but during the 17th and 18th centuries Liverpool’s westerly seaboard gave it a leading edge in the lucrative Caribbean slave trade. The first docks opened in 1715 and eventually stretched 7 miles (11 km) along the Mersey. Liverpool’s first ocean steamer set out from here in 1840, and would-be emigrants to the New World poured into the city from Europe, including a flood of Irish refugees from the potato famine. Many settled permanently in Liverpool, and a large, mixed community developed. Today, the port handles even greater volumes of cargoes than in the 1950s and 1960s, but container ships use Bootle docks. Despite economic and social problems, the irrepressible “Scouse” or Liverpudlian spirit re-emerged in the Swinging Sixties, when four local lads stormed the pop scene. Many people still visit Liverpool to pay homage to the Beatles, but the city is also known for its orchestra, the Liverpool Philharmonic, its sport and its universities. Liverpool was the Capital of Culture in 2008.

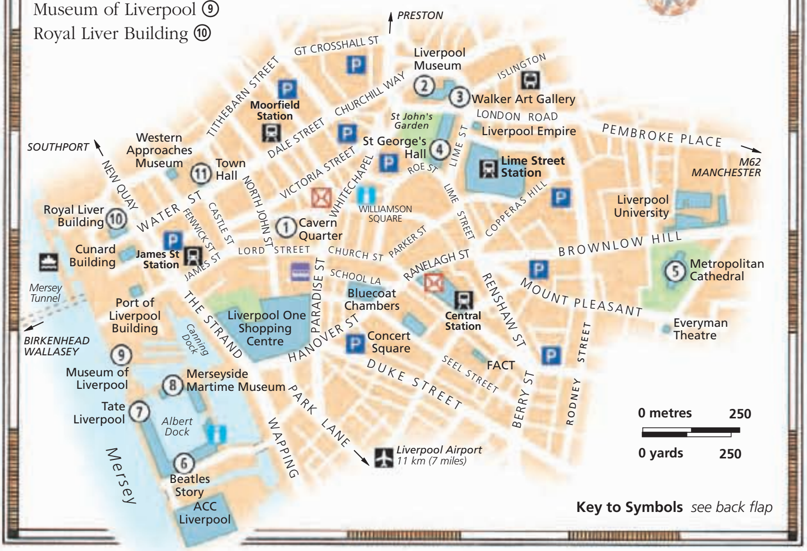
Victorian ironwork, restored and polished, at Albert Dock

Exploring Liverpool

Liverpool’s waterfront by the Pier Head, guarded by the mythical Liver Birds (a pair of cormorants with seaweed in their beaks) on the **Royal Liver Building**, is one of the most easily recognized in Britain. Nearby are the famous ferry terminal across the River Mersey and the revitalized

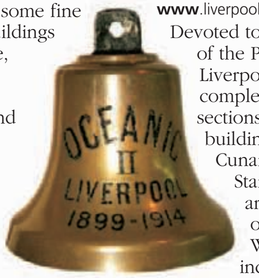
LIVERPOOL CITY CENTRE

Beatles Story ⑥
Cavern Quarter ①
Merseyside Maritime Museum ⑧
Metropolitan Cathedral ⑤
Museum of Liverpool ⑨
Royal Liver Building ⑩
St George’s Hall ④
Tate Liverpool ⑦
Town Hall ⑪
The Walker pp378–9 ③
World Museum Liverpool ②


PRESTON
GT CROSSHALL ST
Liverpool Museum
② ③ Walker Art Gallery
ISLINGTON
TITHEBARN STREET
Moorfield Station
CHURCHILL WAY
St John's Garden
LONDON ROAD
Liverpool Empire
PEMBROKE PLACE
M62 MANCHESTER
SOUTHPORT
Western Approaches Museum
⑪ Town Hall
DALE STREET
St George's Hall ④
ROE ST
LIME ST
Lime Street Station
VICTORIA STREET
WHITECHAPEL
NORTH JOHN ST
NEW QUAY
WATER ST
FENWICK ST
CASTLE ST
WILLIAMSON SQUARE
COPPERAS HILL
Liverpool University
Royal Liver Building ⑩
① Cavern Quarter
PARKER ST
LIME STREET
BROWNLOW HILL
Cunard Building
James St Station
JAMES ST
LORD STREET
CHURCH ST
RANELAGH ST
⑤ Metropolitan Cathedral
Mersey Tunnel
SCHOOL LA
Bluecoat Chambers
Central Station
RENSHAW ST
MOUNT PLEASANT
Port of Liverpool Building
THE STRAND
Canning Dock
Liverpool One Shopping Centre
PARADISE ST
HANOVER ST
Concert Square
Everyman Theatre
BIRKENHEAD WALLASEY
⑨ Museum of Liverpool
DUKE STREET
SEEL STREET
FACT
BERRY ST
RODNEY STREET
⑧ Merseyside Martime Museum
PARK LANE
⑦ Tate Liverpool
Albert Dock
WAPPING
Liverpool Airport 11 km (7 miles)
0 metres 250
0 yards 250
⑥ Beatles Story
ACC Liverpool
Mersey

Key to Symbols *see back flap*

docklands. Other attractions include top-class museums and fine galleries, such as the **Walker** *(see pp378–9)*. Its wealth of interesting architecture includes some fine Neo-Classical buildings in the city centre, such as the gargantuan **St George's Hall**, and two cathedrals.


Ship's bell in the Maritime Museum

Albert Dock
ℹ *0151 708 7334.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25 Dec.* 💰 *some attractions.* ♿
www.albertdock.com

There are five warehouses surrounding Albert Dock, all designed by Jesse Hartley in 1846. The docks were closed by 1972. After a decade of dereliction, these Grade I listed buildings were restored in a development that includes museums, galleries, shops, restaurants, bars and businesses.

Albert Dock quay beside the River Mersey

🏛 Merseyside Maritime Museum
Albert Dock. ***Tel*** *0151 478 4499.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍
www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Devoted to the history of the Port of Liverpool, this large complex has good sections on shipbuilding and the Cunard and White Star liners. The area on the Battle of the Atlantic in World War II includes models and charts. Another gallery deals with emigration to the New World. The **HM Customs and Excise National Museum** is also located here, and examines the history of the subject, including smuggling, as well as customs and excise today. Next door is the new **International Slavery Museum**. Across the quayside is the rebuilt Piermaster's House and the Cooperage.

🏛 Museum of Liverpool
Pier Head, Albert Dock. ● *due to open in 2011 – check website for details.* **www**.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/mol

The Museum of Liverpool will be housed in a purpose-built modern building on the waterfront. Inside, flexible exhibition spaces will present the city from various perspectives including as a port, as a global player and as a creative centre, showcasing popular culture.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Liverpool. 👥 *450,000.* ✈ *7 miles (11 km) SE Liverpool.* 🚆 *Lime St.* 🚌 *Norton St.* ⛴ *from Pier Head to the Wirral, also sightseeing trips; to Isle of Man & N Ireland.* ℹ *Whitechapel (0151 233 2008).* 🧺 *Sun (heritage market).* 🎉 *0906 680 6886; Liverpool Show: May; Clipper Round the World Yacht Race: Jun; Beatles Week: Aug.*
www.visitliverpool.com

🏛 Beatles Story
Britannia Vaults. ***Tel*** *0151 709 1963.* ○ *10am–6pm daily.* ● *25, 26 Dec.* 💰 ♿ 🛍 **www**.beatlesstory.com

In a walk-through exhibition, this museum records the history of The Beatles' meteoric rise to fame, from their first record, *Love Me Do,* through Beatlemania to their last live appearance together in 1969, and their eventual break-up. The hits that mesmerized a generation can be heard.

🏛 Tate Liverpool
Albert Dock. ***Tel*** *0151 702 7400.* ○ *Tue–Sun (Jun–Aug: daily).* ● *1 Jan, Good Fri, 24–26 Dec.* 💰 *some exhibitions.* ♿ 👉 *by arrangement.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.tate.org.uk/liverpool

Tate Liverpool has one of the best contemporary art collections outside London. Marked by bright blue and orange panels and arranged over three floors, the gallery was converted from an old warehouse by architect James Stirling. It opened in 1988 as Tate Britain's *(see p91)* first outstation.

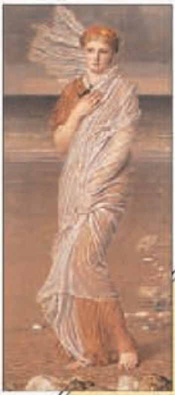
THE BEATLES

Liverpool has produced many good bands and a host of singers, comedians and entertainers before and since the 1960s. But the Beatles – John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr – were the most sensational, and locations associated with the band, however tenuous, are revered as shrines in Liverpool. Bus and walking tours trace the hallowed ground of the Salvation Army home at *Strawberry Fields* and *Penny Lane* (both outside the city centre), as well as the boys' old homes. The most visited site is Mathew Street, near Moorfields Station, where the Cavern Club first throbbed to the Mersey Beat. The original site is now a shopping arcade, but the bricks have been used to create a replica. Nearby are statues of the Beatles and *Eleanor Rigby*.

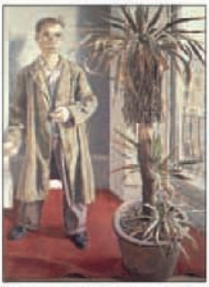
Liverpool: The Walker Art Gallery

Italian dish (c. 1500)

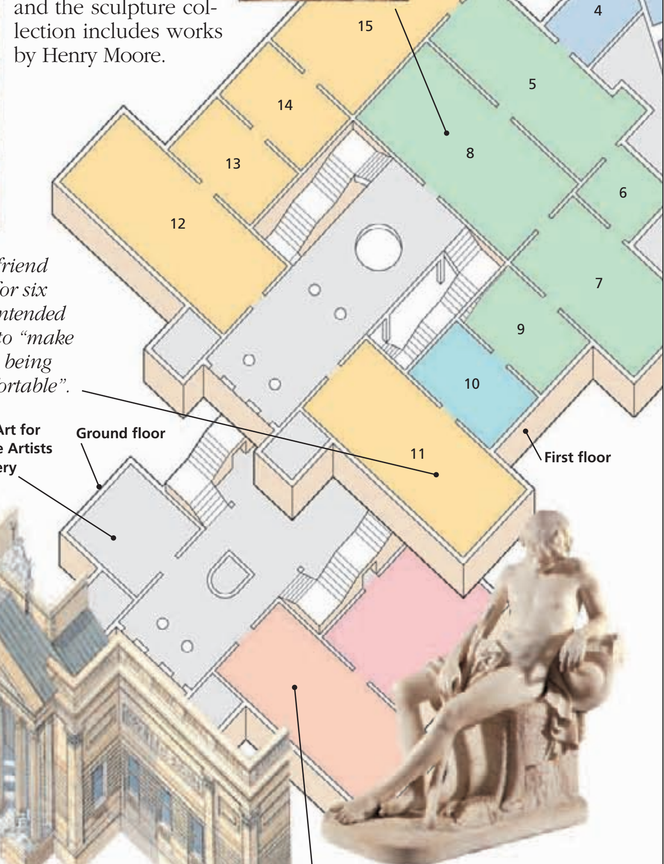
Founded in 1877 by Sir Andrew Barclay Walker, a local brewer and Mayor of Liverpool, this gallery houses one of the finest art collections in Britain. Paintings range from early Italian and Flemish works to Rubens, Rembrandt, Poussin, and French Impressionists such as Degas's *Woman Ironing* (c.1892–5). Among the strong collection of British artists from the 18th century onward are works by Millais and Turner and Gainsborough's *Countess of Sefton* (1769). There is 20th-century art by Hockney and Sickert, and the sculpture collection includes works by Henry Moore.



Seashells *(1874) Albert Moore painted female figures based on antique statues. Influenced by Whistler* (see p519), *he adopted subtle shading.*



Interior at Paddington
(1951) Lucian Freud's friend Harry Diamond posed for six months for this picture, intended by the artist to "make the human being uncomfortable".



Façade was designed by H H Vale and Cornelius Sherlock.

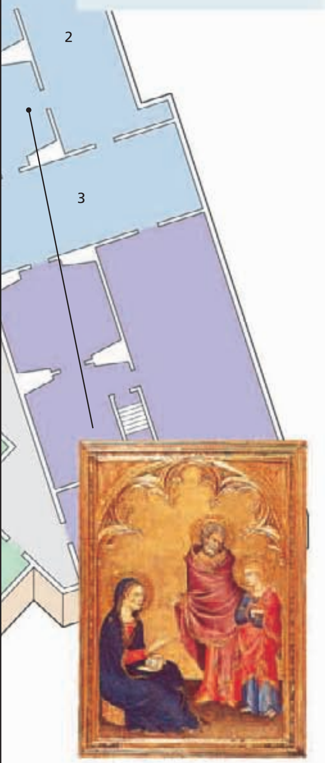
The Sleeping Shepherd Boy
(c.1835) The great Neo-Classical sculptor of the mid-19th century, John Gibson (1790–1866), used traditional colours to give his statuary a smooth appearance.

GALLERY GUIDE

All the picture galleries are on the first floor. Rooms 1–2 house medieval and Renaissance paintings; Rooms 3 and 4 have 17th-century Dutch, French, Italian and Spanish art. British 18th- and 19th-century works are in Rooms 5–9. Rooms 11–15 have 20th-century and contemporary British art, and Room 10 has Impressionists and Post-Impressionists.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

William Brown St. ***Tel*** *0151 478 4199.* 🚆 *Lime St.* 🚌 *Empire Theatre, Lime St, Queen Sq, Paradise St.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www.**liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker



Christ Discovered in the Temple *(1342)*
Simone Martini's Holy Family conveys emotional tension through highly expressive body language.

KEY TO FLOOR PLAN

🟦	13th–17th-century European
🟩	18th–19th-century British, Pre-Raphaelites and Victorian
🟦	Impressionist/Post-Impressionist
🟨	20th-century and contemporary British
🟧	Sculpture gallery
🟥	Craft and design gallery
🟪	Special exhibitions
⬜	Non-exhibition space

The 7th-century Kingston Brooch in World Museum Liverpool

World Museum Liverpool

William Brown St. ***Tel*** *0151 478 4393.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www.**liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml

Six floors of exhibits in this excellent museum include collections of Egyptian, Greek and Roman pieces, natural history, archaeology, space and time. Highlights include the hands-on Weston Discovery Centre, a planetarium, the Close Natural History Centre, an aquarium and a Bug House.

Anglican Cathedral

St James' Mount. ***Tel*** *0151 709 6271.* ○ *8am–6pm daily.* ✋ ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www.**liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

Although Gothic in style, this building was only completed in 1978. The largest Anglican cathedral in the world is a fine red sandstone edifice designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The foundation stone was laid in 1904 by Edward VII but, dogged by two world wars, building work dragged on to modified designs.

Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King

Mount Pleasant. ***Tel*** *0151 709 9222.* ○ *8am–6pm daily.* **Donation.** ☕ ♿ 🛍 **www.**liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

Liverpool's Roman Catholic cathedral rejected traditional forms in favour of a striking modern design. Early plans, drawn up by Pugin and later by Lutyens *(see p29)* in the 1930s, proved too expensive. The final version, brainchild of Sir Frederick Gibberd and built from 1962–7, is a circular building surmounted by a stylized crown of thorns 88 m (290 ft) high. It is irreverently known as "Paddy's Wigwam" by non-Catholics (a reference to Liverpool's large Irish population). Inside, the stained-glass lantern, designed by John Piper and Patrick Reyntiens, floods the circular nave with diffused blueish light. There is a fine bronze of Christ by Elisabeth Frink (1930–94).

Environs: A spectacular, richly-timbered building dating from 1490, **Speke Hall** lies 6 miles (10 km) east of Liverpool's centre, on the banks of the River Mersey. The oldest parts of the hall enclose a cobbled courtyard dominated by two yew trees, Adam and Eve.

Birkenhead on the Wirral peninsula has been linked to Liverpool by ferry for over 800 years. Now, road and rail tunnels supplement access. The Norman Priory is still in use on Sundays, and stately Hamilton Square was designed from 1825–44 by J Gillespie Graham, one of the architects of Edinburgh's New Town.

On the Wirral side is **Port Sunlight Village** *(see p349)*, a Victorian garden village built by enlightened soap manufacturer William Hesketh Lever for his factory workers. He also founded the **Lady Lever Art Gallery** here for his collection of works of art, including Pre-Raphaelite paintings.

Speke Hall

(NT) The Walk, Speke. ***Tel*** *0844 800 4799.* **House** ○ *Apr–Oct: Wed–Sun (pm); Nov–mid-Dec: Sat & Sun (pm).* **Gardens** ○ *Tue–Sun (pm) all year.* ⊘ ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍

Port Sunlight Village & Heritage Centre

95 Greendale Rd, Port Sunlight, Wirral. ***Tel*** *0151 644 6466.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 10am–4pm; Nov–Mar: 11am–4pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* ⊘ ✋ ♿ ☕ 🛍

Entrance to the half-timbered manor house of Speke Hall

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER REGION

NORTH YORKSHIRE · EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

With the historic city of York at its heart, this is an area of picturesque moorland and valleys. To the north lie the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors; eastwards, a coastline of beaches; and southwards, a landscape of lush meadows.

Yorkshire was originally made up of three separate counties, formerly known as "Ridings". Today it covers over 5,000 sq miles (12,950 sq km). The northeast section has dramatic limestone scenery that was carved by glaciers in the Ice Age. Farming was the original livelihood, and the dry-stone walls weaving up precipitous scars and fells were used to divide the land. Imposed on this were the industries of the 19th century; blackened mill chimneys and crumbling viaducts are as much a part of the scenery as the grand houses of those who profited from them.

Close to the Humber, the landscape is very different, dominated historically by the now flagging fishing industry, and geographically by lush, sprawling meadows. Its coastline is exceptional, and further north are the attractions of wide, sandy beaches and bustling harbour towns. Yet it is the contrasting landscapes that make the area so appealing, ranging from the bleak moorland of the Brontë novels to the ragged cliff coast around Whitby, and the flat expanse of Sunk Island.

The city of York, where Roman and Viking relics exist side by side, is second only to London in the number of visitors that tread its streets. Indeed the historical centre of York is the region's foremost attraction. Those in search of a real taste of Yorkshire, however, should head for the countryside. In addition to excellent touring routes, a network of rewarding walking paths range from mellow ambles along the Cleveland Way to rocky scrambles over the Pennine Way at Pen-y-Ghent.

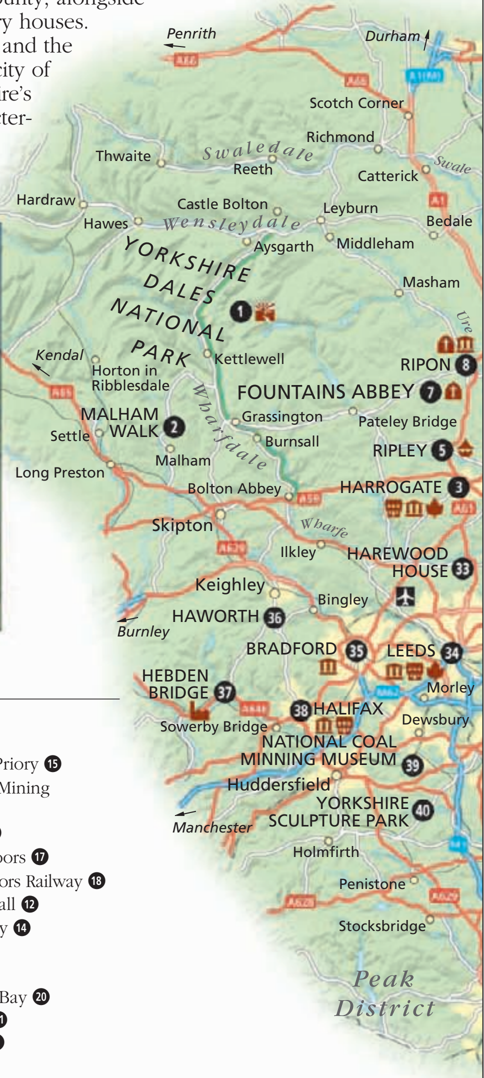
Lobster pots on the quayside at the picturesque fishing port of Whitby

◁ **The peaceful valley of Rosedale, North York Moors**

Exploring Yorkshire and the Humber Region

Yorkshire covers a wide area, once made up of three counties or “Ridings”. Until the arrival of railways, mining and the wool industry in the 19th century, the county was a farming area. Dry-stone walls dividing fields still pepper the northern part of the county, alongside 19th-century mill chimneys and country houses. Among the many abbeys are Rievaulx and the magnificent Fountains. The medieval city of York is a major attraction, as are Yorkshire’s beaches. The Humber region is characterized by the softer, rolling countryside of the Wolds, and its nature reserves attract enormous quantities of birds.

Rosedale village in the North York Moors


Penrith
Durham
A66
A66
A1(M)
Scotch Corner
Richmond
Thwaite
Swaledale
Reeth
Swale
Catterick
Hardraw
Castle Bolton
Leyburn
A1
Bedale
Hawes
Wensleydale
Aysgarth
Middleham
YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK
①
Masham
Ure
Kendal
Kettlewell
RIPON ⑧
Horton in Ribblesdale
A65
FOUNTAINS ABBEY ⑦
MALHAM WALK ②
Wharfdale
Grassington
Pateley Bridge
Settle
Burnsall
RIPLEY ⑤
Malham
Long Preston
Bolton Abbey
A59
HARROGATE ③
A61
Skipton
Wharfe
A629
Ilkley
HAREWOOD HOUSE ㉝
Keighley
Bingley
HAWORTH ㊱
Burnley
BRADFORD ㉟
LEEDS ㉞
HEBDEN BRIDGE ㊲
Morley
M62
A646
㊳ HALIFAX
Sowerby Bridge
Dewsbury
NATIONAL COAL MINNING MUSEUM ㊴
Huddersfield
YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK ㊵
Manchester
Holmfirth
M1
Penistone
A628
A629
Stocksbridge
Peak District

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Bempton and Flamborough Head ㉖
Beverley ㉗
Bradford ㉟
Burton Agnes ㉕
Burton Constable ㉘
Byland Abbey ⑩
Castle Howard pp398–9 ㉒
Coxwold ⑪
Eden Camp ㉓
Fountains Abbey pp390–91 ⑦
Grimsby ㉛
Halifax ㊳
Harewood House ㉝
Harrogate ③
Haworth ㊱
Hebden Bridge ㊲
Helmsley ⑬
Holderness and Spurn Head ㉚
Hutton-le-Hole ⑯
Kingston upon Hull ㉙
Knaresborough ④
Leeds ㉞
Magna ㊶
Mount Grace Priory ⑮
National Coal Mining Museum ㊴
Newby Hall ⑥
North York Moors ⑰
North York Moors Railway ⑱
Nunnington Hall ⑫
Rievaulx Abbey ⑭
Ripley ⑤
Ripon ⑧
Robin Hood’s Bay ⑳
Scarborough ㉑
Sutton Bank ⑨
Whitby ⑲
Wharram Percy ㉔
York pp404–9 ㉜
Yorkshire Dales ①
Yorkshire Sculpture Park ㊵

Walks

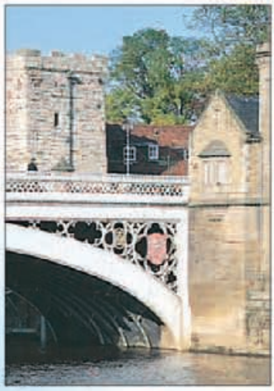
Malham Walk ②

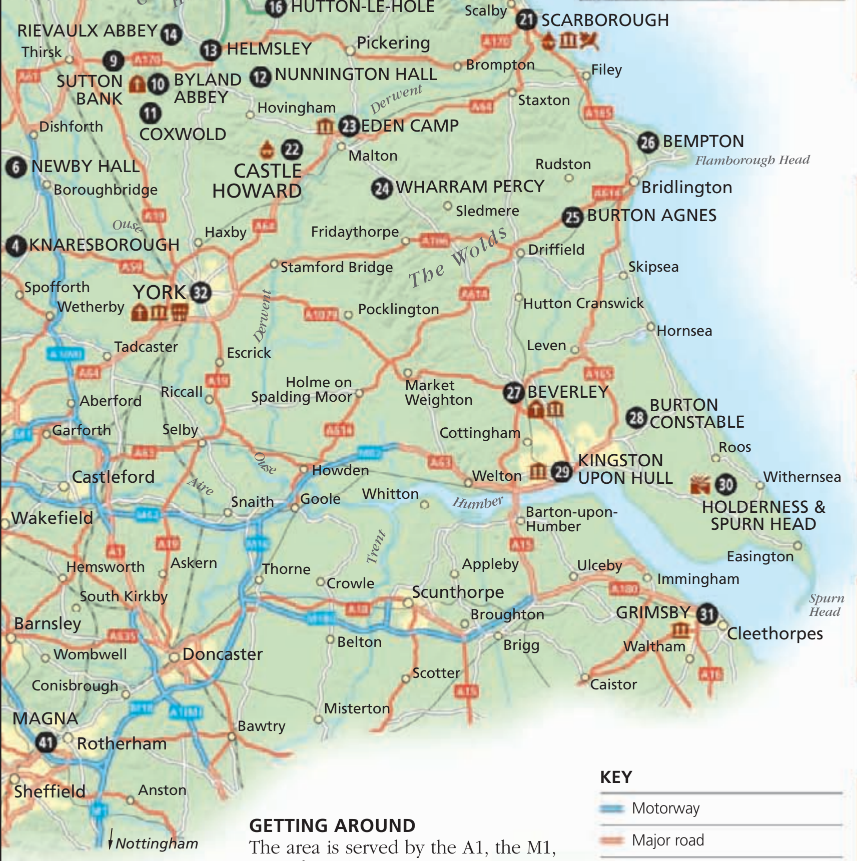
SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp586–8
- ***Where to Eat*** pp638–40

For additional map symbols *see back flap*

Section of Lendal Bridge (1863) crossing the Ouse in York




Guisborough
Hinderwell
Stokesley
Great Ayton
A171
WHITBY 19
Esk
A19
A172
ROBIN 20 HOOD'S BAY
15 MOUNT GRACE PRIORY
17
NORTH YORK MOORS
Goathland
Northallerton
Cleveland Hills
Rosedale Abbey
18 NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY
16 HUTTON-LE-HOLE
Scalby
21 SCARBOROUGH
RIEVAULX ABBEY 14
Thirsk
9
A170
13 HELMSLEY
Pickering
A170
Brompton
A61
SUTTON BANK
10 BYLAND ABBEY
12 NUNNINGTON HALL
Filey
11
Hovingham
Derwent
Staxton
A64
A165
Dishforth
COXWOLD
23 EDEN CAMP
26 BEMPTON
22
Malton
Flamborough Head
6 NEWBY HALL
CASTLE HOWARD
Rudston
Boroughbridge
24 WHARRAM PERCY
A614
Bridlington
Sledmere
25 BURTON AGNES
Ouse
A59
Haxby
A64
Fridaythorpe
4 KNARESBOROUGH
A166
Driffield
The Wolds
Stamford Bridge
Skipsea
Spofforth
YORK 32
A59
Wetherby
Derwent
A1079
Pocklington
A614
Hutton Cranswick
Hornsea
A1(M)
Tadcaster
A64
Escrick
Leven
A19
A165
Holme on Spalding Moor
Market Weighton
27 BEVERLEY
BURTON 28 CONSTABLE
Aberford
Riccall
A614
Garforth
Selby
Cottingham
Roos
M1
A63
Ouse
M62
A63
KINGSTON 29 UPON HULL
Castleford
Howden
Welton
Withernsea
Aire
30
Snaith
Goole
Whitton
Humber
HOLDERNESS & SPURN HEAD
Wakefield
M62
Barton-upon-Humber
A1
A19
M18
Trent
A15
Easington
Hemsworth
Askern
Thorne
Appleby
Ulceby
Crowle
A180
Immingham
Scunthorpe
South Kirkby
Spurn Head
A18
M180
Broughton
GRIMSBY 31
Barnsley
A635
Belton
Cleethorpes
Brigg
Waltham
Wombwell
Doncaster
Scotter
Conisbrough
A15
Caistor
A16
MAGNA
M18
A1(M)
Misterton
41 Rotherham
Bawtry
Sheffield
Anston
M1
Nottingham

GETTING AROUND

The area is served by the A1, the M1, the M62 and the A59. Trains run to major cities such as York and Leeds, and there are train or coach (bus) links between many towns and hamlets. The Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors national parks are good for walkers, and cyclists can enjoy rides around York and the River Humber.

KEY

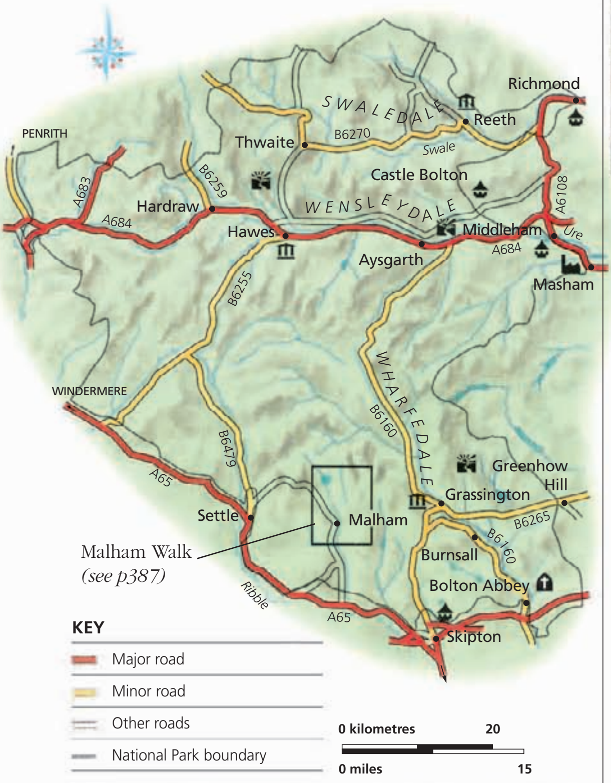
- Motorway
- Major road
- Secondary road
- Minor road
- Scenic route
- Main railway
- Minor railway

0 kilometres 15

0 miles 10

Yorkshire Dales ❶

The Yorkshire Dales is a farming landscape, formed from three principle dales, Swaledale, Wharfedale and Wensleydale, and a number of small ones, such as Deepdale. Glaciation in the Ice Age helped carve out these steep-sided valleys, and this scenery contrasts with the high moorlands. However, 12 centuries of settlement have altered the landscape in the form of cottages, castles and villages which create a delightful environment for walking. A national park since 1954, the area provides recreation while serving local community needs.


Richmond
SWALEDALE
Reeth
PENRITH
Thwaite
B6270
Swale
Castle Bolton
A683
B6259
A6108
Hardraw
WENSLEYDALE
A684
Hawes
Middleham
Ure
A684
Aysgarth
Masham
B6255
WINDERMERE
WHARFEDALE
B6160
B6479
Greenhow Hill
A65
Grassington
Settle
Malham
B6265
Malham Walk (see p387)
B6160
Burnsall
Ribble
Bolton Abbey
A65
Skipton
KEY
Major road
Minor road
Other roads
National Park boundary
0 kilometres 20
0 miles 15

The green, rolling landscape of Deepdale, near Dent

Monk's Wynd – one of Richmond's narrow, winding streets

Exploring Swaledale

Swaledale's prosperity was founded largely on wool, and it is famous for its herd of sheep that graze on the wild higher slopes in the harshest weather. The fast-moving river Swale that gives the northernmost dale its name travels from bleak moorland down magnificent waterfalls into the richly wooded lower slopes, passing through the village of Reeth and the town of Richmond.

Richmond Castle

(EH) Tower Street. ***Tel*** *01748 822493.* ○ *Oct–Apr: Thu–Mon; May–Sep: daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ *limited.*

Swaledale's main point of entry is the medieval market town of Richmond. Alan Rufus, the Norman 1st Earl of Richmond, began building the castle in 1071, and some of the masonry on the curtain walls probably dates from that time. It has a fine Norman keep, 30 m (100 ft) high with walls 3.3 m (11 ft) thick. An 11th-century arch leads into a courtyard containing Scolland's Hall (1080), one of England's oldest buildings.

Richmond's marketplace was once the castle's outer bailey. Its quaint, narrow streets gave rise to the song, *The Lass of Richmond Hill* (1787), written by Leonard McNally for his wife, Frances I'Anson, who was brought up in Hill House, on Richmond Hill. Turner *(see p91)* depicted the town many times. The Georgian Theatre (1788) is the only one of its age still surviving.

🏛 Swaledale Folk Museum

Reeth Green. ***Tel** 01748 884118.* ○ *Easter–Oct: daily; Nov–Mar: call to check.* ✋ ☕ 🛍

Reeth, a town that became known as the centre of the lead-mining industry, houses this museum in a former Methodist Sunday school (1830). Included in it are mining and wool-making artifacts (wool from the hardy Swaledale sheep was another mainstay of the economy) and brass band memorabilia.

✹ Buttertubs

Near Thwaite, on the B6270 Hawes road, are a series of fluted limestone potholes that streams fall into. These became known as the Buttertubs when farmers going to market lowered their butter into the holes to keep it cool.

Buttertubs, near Thwaite

Exploring Wensleydale

The largest of the Yorkshire dales, Wensleydale is famous for its cheese and more recently for James Herriot's books and the television series, *All Creatures Great and Small*. It is easy walking country for anyone seeking an alternative to major moorland hikes.

🏛 Dales Countryside Museum

Station Yard, Hawes. ***Tel** 01969 666210.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *24–26 Dec, 1 Jan.* ✋ ♿ 🛍

In a former railway goods warehouse in Hawes, capital of Upper Wensleydale, is a fascinating museum, filled with items from life and industry in the 18th- and 19th-century Upper Dales. This includes cheese- and butter-making equipment. Wensleydale cheese was created by monks at nearby Jervaulx Abbey. There is also a rope-making works a short walk away.

Barrels at the Theakston Brewery

Hawes itself is the highest market town in England, at 259 m (850 ft) above sea level. It is a thriving centre where thousands of sheep and cattle are auctioned each summer.

✹ Hardraw Force

✋ *at Green Dragon Inn, Hardraw.*

At the tiny village of Hardraw, nearby, is England's tallest single-drop waterfall, with no outcrops to interrupt its 29 m (96 ft) fall. It became famous in Victorian times when the daredevil Blondin walked across it on a tightrope. Today, you can walk right under it and look through the stream without getting wet.

✹ Aysgarth Waterfalls

ℹ *National Pk Centre (01969 662910).* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily; Nov–Dec & Feb–Mar: Fri–Mon.* ☕

An old packhorse bridge gives a clear view of the point at which the previously placid River Ure suddenly begins to plunge in foaming torrents over wide limestone shelves. Turner painted the impressive lower falls in 1817.

🏛 Theakston Brewery

Masham. ***Tel** 01765 680000.* ○ *daily.* ● *23 Dec–early Jan.* ✋ ☞ 🛍 **www**.theakstons.co.uk

The pretty town of Masham is the home of Theakston brewery, creator of the potent ale Old Peculier. The history of this local family brewery from its origin in 1827 is on display in the visitors' centre. Masham village itself has an attractive square once used for sheep fairs, surrounded by 17th- and 18th-century houses.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

N Yorkshire. 🚆 *Skipton.*
🚌 ℹ *0300 4560030.*
www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

♜ Bolton Castle

Castle Bolton, nr Leyburn. ***Tel** 01969 623981.* ○ *daily.* ● *Nov–weekend before Easter.* ✋ ☕ 🛍 **www**.boltoncastle.co.uk

Situated in the village of Castle Bolton, this spectacular medieval fortress was built in 1379 by the 1st Lord Scrope, Chancellor of England. It was used as a fortress from 1568 to 1569 when Mary, Queen of Scots *(see p511)* was held prisoner here by Elizabeth I *(see pp50–51).*

♜ Middleham Castle

(EH) Middleham, nr Leyburn. ***Tel** 01969 623899.* ○ *Mar–Sep: daily; Oct–Mar: Sat–Wed.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 🛍 ✋ ♿ *limited.*

Owned by Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, it was built in 1170. The castle is better known as home to Richard III *(see p49)* when he was made Lord of the North. It was once one of the strongest fortresses in the north but became uninhabited during the 15th century, when many of its stones were used for nearby buildings. The keep provides a fine view of the landscape.

Remains of Middleham Castle, once residence of Richard III

Extensive ruins of Bolton Priory, dating from 1154

Exploring Wharfedale

This dale is characterized by gritstone moorland, contrasting with quiet market towns along meandering sections of river. Many consider Grassington a central point for exploring Wharfedale, but the showpiece villages of Burnsall, overlooked by a 506 m (1,661 ft) fell, and Buckden, 701 m (2,302 ft), near Buckden Pike, also make excellent bases.

Nearby are the Three Peaks of Whernside, 736 m (2,416 ft), Ingleborough, 724 m (2,376 ft) and Pen-y-Ghent 694 m (2,278 ft). They are known for their potholes and tough terrain, but this does not deter keen walkers from attempting to climb them all in one day. If you sign in at the Pen-y-Ghent café at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, at the centre of the Three Peaks, and complete the 20 mile (32 km) course, reaching the summit of all three peaks in less than 12 hours, you can qualify for membership of the Three Peaks of Yorkshire Club.

Burnsall

St Wilfrid's, Burnsall. ***Tel*** *01756 720331.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily to dusk.* ♿

Preserved in St Wilfrid's church graveyard are the original village stocks, gravestones from Viking times and a headstone carved in memory of the Dawson family by sculptor Eric Gill (1882–1940). The village has a five-arched bridge and hosts Britain's oldest fell race every August.

🏛 Grassington Folk Museum

The Square, Grassington. ***Tel*** *01756 752801.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily (pm).* ♿ *limited.*

This museum is set in two 18th-century lead miners' cottages. Its exhibits illustrate the domestic and working history of the area, including farming and lead mining.

✝ Bolton Priory

Bolton Abbey, Skipton. ***Tel*** *01756 718000.* ○ *daily.* ♿

One of the most beautiful areas of Wharfedale is around the village of Bolton Abbey, set in an estate owned by the Dukes of Devonshire. While preserving its astounding beauty, its managers have incorporated over 30 miles (46 km) of footpaths, many suitable for the disabled and young families.

The ruins of Bolton Priory, established by Augustinian canons in 1154 on the site of a Saxon manor, are extensive. They include a church, chapter house, cloister and prior's lodging. These all demonstrate the wealth accumulated by the canons from the sale of wool from their flocks of sheep. The priory nave is still used as a parish church. Another attraction of the estate is the "Strid", a point where the River Wharfe surges spectacularly through a gorge, foaming yellow and gouging holes out of the rocks.

Stump Cross Caverns

Greenhow Hill, Pateley Bridge. ***Tel*** *01756 752780.* ○ *Mar–Nov: daily; Dec–Feb: Sat, Sun & pub hols.*

www.stumpcrosscaverns.co.uk

These caves were formed over a period of half a million years: trickles of underground water formed intertwining passages and carved them into fantastic shapes and sizes. Sealed off in the last Ice Age, the caves were only discovered in the 1850s, when lead miners sank a mine shaft into the caverns.

Skipton Castle

High St. ***Tel*** *01756 792442.* ○ *daily (Sun: pm).* ● *25 Dec.*

www.skiptoncastle.co.uk

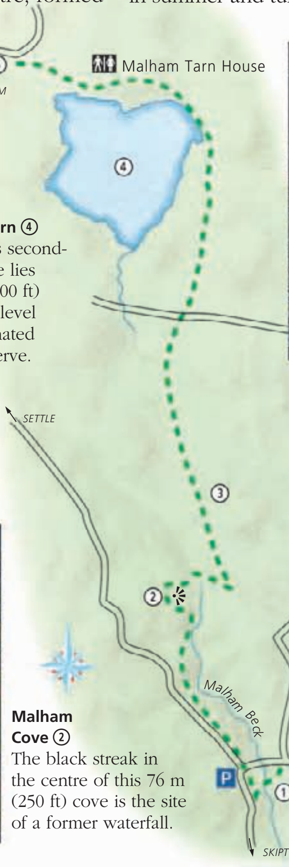
The market town of Skipton is still one of the largest auctioning and stockraising centres in the north. Its 11th-century castle was almost entirely rebuilt by Robert de Clifford in the 14th century. Beautiful Conduit Court was added by Henry, Lord Clifford, in Henry VIII's reign. The central yew tree was planted by Lady Anne Clifford in 1659 to mark restoration work to the castle after Civil War damage.

Conduit Court (1495) and yew tree at Skipton Castle

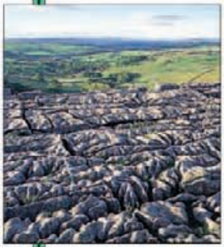
Malham Walk ❷

Sandpiper at Malham Tarn

The Malham area, shaped by glacial erosion 10,000 years ago, has one of Great Britain's most dramatic limestone landscapes. The walk from Malham village can take over four hours if you pause to enjoy the viewpoints and take a detour to Gordale Scar. Those who are short of time tend to go only as far as Malham Cove. This vast natural amphitheatre, formed by a huge geological tear, is like a giant boot-heel mark in the landscape. Above lie the deep crevices of Malham Lings, where rare flora such as hart's-tongue flourishes. Unusual plants grow in the lime-rich Malham Tarn, said to have provided inspiration for Charles Kingsley's *The Water Babies* (1863). Coot and mallard visit the tarn in summer and tufted duck in winter.



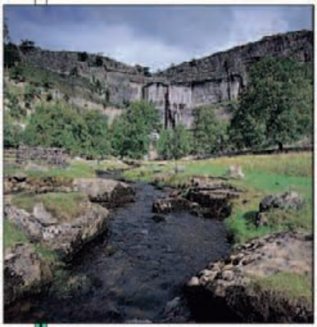
Where the path meets the road ⑤
From here, you can catch a bus back to Malham village.



Malham Tarn ④
Yorkshire's second-largest lake lies 305 m (1,000 ft) above sea level in a designated nature reserve.

Gordale Scar ⑥
Guarded by steep limestone cliffs, this deep gorge was created by meltwater from Ice Age glaciers.

Malham Lings ③
This fine limestone pavement was formed when Ice Age meltwater seeped into cracks in the rock, then froze and expanded.



Malham Cove ②
The black streak in the centre of this 76 m (250 ft) cove is the site of a former waterfall.

Malham ①
An attractive riverside village, it has an information centre with details of drives and walks.

KEY

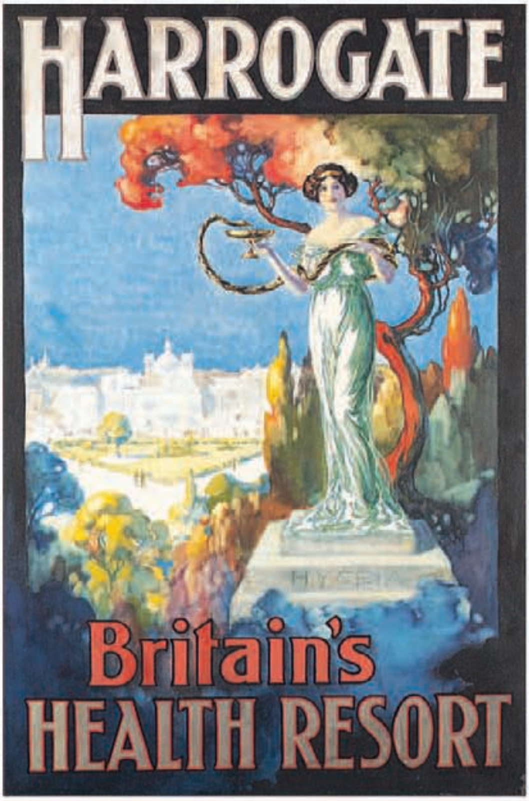
▬ ▬	Walk route
═	Minor road
✺	Viewpoint
P	Parking
i	Tourist information
🚻	Toilets

0 kilometres 1

0 miles ½

TIPS FOR WALKERS

Starting point: *Malham.* ***Getting there:*** *Leave M65 at Junction 14 and take A56 to Skipton, then follow signs to Malham which is off A65.* ***Length:*** *7 miles (11 km).* ***Difficulty:*** *Malham Cove is steep but the Tarn area is flatter.* i *01729 830363.*



A 1920s poster advertising the spa town of Harrogate

Harrogate ❸

North Yorkshire. 👥 *69,000.*
🚆 🚌 ℹ *The Royal Baths, Crescent Rd (0845 389 3223).*
www.harrogate.gov.uk

Between 1880 and World War I, Harrogate was the north's leading spa town, with nearly 90 medicinal springs. It was ideal for aristocrats who, after a tiring London season, were able to stop for a health cure before journeying on to grouse-shooting in Scotland.

Today, Harrogate's main attractions are its spa town atmosphere, fine architecture, public gardens and its convenience as a centre for visiting North Yorkshire and the Dales.

The naturally welling spa waters may not currently be in use, but you can still go for a Turkish bath in one of the country's most attractive steam rooms. The entrance at the side of the Royal Bath Assembly Rooms (1897) is unassuming, but once inside, the century-old **Harrogate Turkish Baths** are a visual feast of tiled Victoriana.

The town's spa history is recorded in the **Royal Pump Room Museum**. At the turn of the century, the waters were thought to be rich in iron early in the day. So, between 7am and 9am the 1842 octagonal building would have been filled with rich and fashionable people drinking glasses of water. Poorer people could take water from the pump outside. Today you can sample the waters and enjoy the museum's exhibits, including a Penny Farthing bicycle.

Harrogate is also known for the rainbow-coloured flower-beds in **The Stray**, a common space to the south of the town centre, and for the ornamental **RHS Harlow Carr Gardens**, owned by the Royal Horticultural Society. Visitors can enjoy the delicious cakes at **Betty's Café Tea Rooms** *(see p628).*

Harrogate Turkish Baths
The Royal Baths, Crescent Rd. ***Tel*** *01423 556746.* ○ ***Men:*** *Mon, Wed & Fri: (pm).* ***Women:*** *Mon, Tue & Thu (pm); Fri (am); Sun.* ***Mixed*** *(in bathing suits): Tue (am); couples only, in bathing suits: Wed–Sun (eve).* 💷

Royal Pump Room Museum
Crown Pl. ***Tel*** *01423 556188.*
○ *daily (Sun: pm only).*
● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 💷 ♿ 🛍

Betty's Café Tea Rooms
1 Parliament St. ***Tel*** *01423 814070.*
○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.*
www.bettysandtaylors.co.uk

RHS Harlow Carr Gardens
Crag Lane. ***Tel*** *01423 724690.*
○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 💷 ♿ 🍴 ☕
www.rhs.org.uk

Knaresborough ❹

North Yorkshire. 👥 *14,000.* 🚆 🚌 *from Harrogate.* ℹ *9 Castle Courtyard, Market Place (08453 890177).* 🛒 *Wed.*

Perched precipitously above the River Nidd is one of England's oldest towns, mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 *(see p48).* Its historic streets – which link the church, John of Gaunt's ruined castle, and the market place with the river – are now lined with fine 18th-century houses.

Nearby is **Mother Shipton's Cave**, reputedly England's oldest tourist attraction. It first went on show in 1630 as the birthplace of Ursula Sontheil,

Mother Shipton's cave, with objects encased in limestone

The south front of Newby Hall

a famous local prophetess. Today, people can view the effect the well near her cave has on objects hung below the dripping surface. Almost any item, from umbrellas to soft toys, will become encased in limestone within a few weeks.

Mother Shipton's Cave
Prophesy House, High Bridge.
Tel *01423 864600.* ○ *Easter–Oct: daily; Feb–Easter: Sat, Sun.* ● *Nov–Jan.* 💰 ☞ ☕ 🛍

Ripley ❺

North Yorkshire. 👥 *150.*
🚌 *from Harrogate or Ripon.*
ℹ *Harrogate (0845 893223).*
www.harrogate.gov.uk

Since the 1320s, when the first generation of the Ingilby family lived in an early incarnation of **Ripley Castle**, the village has been made up almost exclusively of castle employees. The influence of one 19th-century Ingilby had the most visual impact. In the 1820s, Sir William Amcotts Ingilby was so entranced by a village in Alsace Lorraine that he created a similar one in French Gothic style, complete with an *Hotel de Ville*. Present-day Ripley has a cobbled market square, and quaint cottages line the streets.

Ripley Castle, with its 15th-century gatehouse, was where Oliver Cromwell *(see p52)* stayed following the Battle of Marston Moor. The 28th generation of Ingilbys live here, and it is open for tours. The attractive grounds contain two lakes and a deer park, as well as more formal gardens.

Ripley Castle
Ripley. ***Tel*** *01423 770152.* ○ *Easter–Sep: daily; Mar, Oct & Nov: Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun; Dec–Feb: Sat & Sun.* **Gardens** ○ *daily all year.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* 💰 ♿ ☞ ☕ 🛍

Newby Hall ❻

Nr Ripon, North Yorkshire. ***Tel*** *0845 4504068.* ○ *Apr–Jun & Sep: Tue–Sun; Jul & Aug: daily.* 💰 ♿ 🍴 🛍
www.newbyhall.com

Newby Hall stands on land once occupied by the de Nubie family in the 13th century and has been in the hands of the current family since 1748. The central part of the present house was built in the late 17th century, in the style of Sir Christopher Wren.

Visitors will find 25 acres of gardens to explore. Laid out in a series of compartmented areas off a main axis, each garden is planted to come into flower during a different season. There is also a Woodland Discovery Walk, with contemporary sculpture.

For children, there is an adventure garden with activities and a miniature railway that runs through the gardens alongside the river Ure. River boat rides are also available. Each year a number of special events are staged, including Plant Fairs, a Historic Vehicle Rally and two Craft

Fountains Abbey ❼

See pp390–91.

Ripon ❽

North Yorkshire. 👥 *14,000.*
🚌 *from Harrogate.* ℹ *Minster Rd (0845 389 0178).* 🛒 *Thu.*
www.visitripon.org

Ripon, a charming small city, is best known for the cathedral and "the watch", which has been announced since the Middle Ages by the Wakeman. In return for protecting Ripon citizens, he would charge an annual toll of two pence per household. Today, a man still blows a horn in the Market Square each evening at 9pm, and every Thursday a handbell is rung to open the market.

The **Cathedral of St Peter and St Wilfrid** is built above a 7th-century Saxon crypt. At less than 3 m (10 ft) high and just over 2 m (7 ft) wide, it is held to be the oldest complete crypt in England. The cathedral is known for its collection of misericords *(see p341),* which include both pagan and Old Testament examples. The architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner (1902–83) considered the cathedral's West Front the finest in England.

Ripon's **Prison and Police Museum**, housed in the 1686 "House of Correction", looks at police history and the conditions in Victorian prisons.

Prison and Police Museum
St Marygate. ***Tel*** *01765 690799.*
○ *Apr–Oct: daily (pm only).*
● *Nov–Mar.* 💰 ♿ 🛍
www.riponmuseums.co.uk

Ripon's Wakeman, blowing his horn in the Market Square

Fountains Abbey ❼

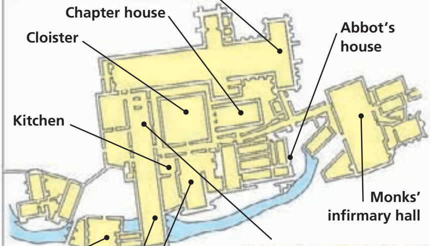
Nestling in the wooded valley of the River Skell are the extensive sandstone ruins of Fountains Abbey and the outstanding water garden of Studley Royal. Fountains Abbey was founded by Benedictine monks in 1132 and taken over by Cistercians three years later. By the mid-12th century it had become the wealthiest abbey in Britain, though it fell into ruin during the Dissolution *(see p50)*. In 1720, John Aislabie, the MP for Ripon and Chancellor of the Exchequer, developed the land and forest of the abbey ruins. He began work, continued by his son William, on the famous water garden, statuary and Classical temples in the grounds. Studley Royal and the Abbey became World Heritage sites in 1986.

Fountains Hall
Built by Sir Stephen Proctor around 1611, with stones from the abbey ruins, its design is attributed to architect Robert Smythson. It included a great hall with a minstrels' gallery and an entrance flanked by Classical columns.

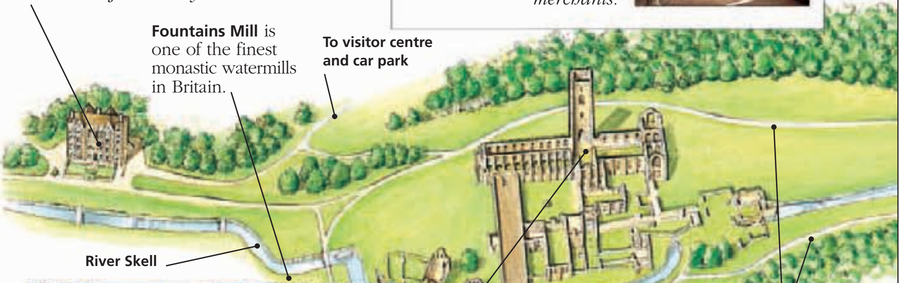
THE ABBEY

The abbey buildings were designed to reflect the Cistercians' desire for simplicity and austerity. The abbey frequently dispensed charity to the poor and the sick, as well as travellers.

The Chapel of Nine Altars *at the east end of the church was built from 1203 to 1247. It is ornate, compared to the rest of the abbey, with an 18-m (60-ft) high window complemented by another at the western end of the nave.*


Chapter house
Cloister
Abbot's house
Kitchen
Monks' infirmary hall
Refectory
Lay brothers' infirmary
Lay brothers' refectory

Cellarium and dormitory undercroft, *with vaulting 90 m (300 ft) long, was used for storing fleeces which the abbey monks sold to Venetian and Florentine merchants.*



Fountains Mill is one of the finest monastic watermills in Britain.

To visitor centre and car park
River Skell
Paths leading to the estate park

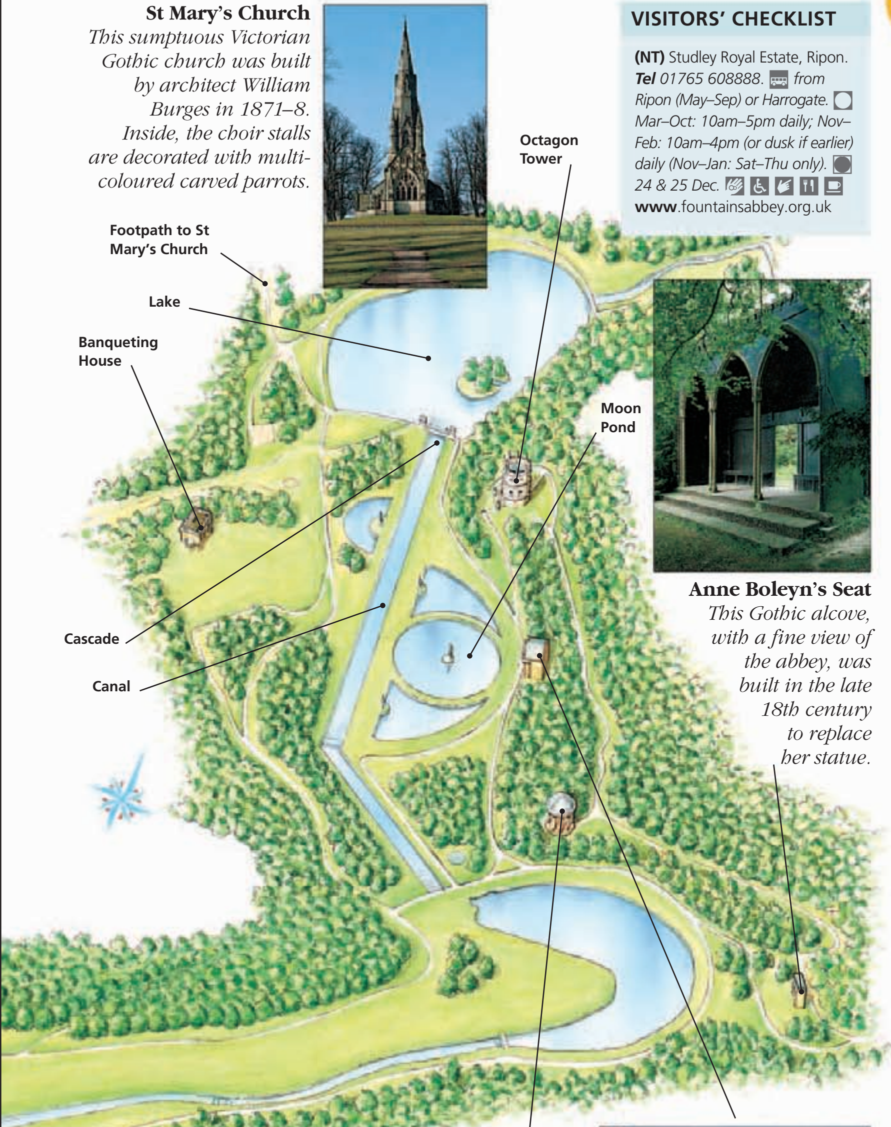
★ Abbey
This was built by using stones taken from the Skell valley.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Abbey
- ★ Temple of Piety

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

(NT) Studley Royal Estate, Ripon. ***Tel*** *01765 608888.* 🚌 *from Ripon (May–Sep) or Harrogate.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 10am–5pm daily; Nov–Feb: 10am–4pm (or dusk if earlier) daily (Nov–Jan: Sat–Thu only).* ● *24 & 25 Dec.* 💷 ♿ 👉 🍴 ☕ **www**.fountainsabbey.org.uk



St Mary's Church
This sumptuous Victorian Gothic church was built by architect William Burges in 1871–8. Inside, the choir stalls are decorated with multi-coloured carved parrots.

Anne Boleyn's Seat
This Gothic alcove, with a fine view of the abbey, was built in the late 18th century to replace her statue.

Temple of Fame
The columns of this domed building are made of hollow timber but look like sandstone.

★ Temple of Piety
This garden house was originally dedicated to Hercules. It was renamed as a symbol of filial piety by William Aislabie after his father's death in 1742.

The 19th-century white horse, seen on one of the walks around Sutton Bank

Sutton Bank ❾

North Yorkshire. 🚆 *Thirsk.* ℹ *Sutton Bank (01845 597426).*

Notorious among motorists for its 1 in 4 gradient, which climbs for about 107 m (350 ft), Sutton Bank itself is well known for its panoramic views. On a clear day you can see from the Vale of York to the Peak District *(see pp338–9).* William and his sister Dorothy Wordsworth stopped here to admire the vista in 1802, on their way to visit his future wife, Mary Hutchinson, at Brompton. Apart from Sutton Bank, where you can walk round the white horse, the area is less wild than the coastal side, and suitable for children.

Byland Abbey ❿

(EH) Coxwold, York. ***Tel*** *01347 868 614.* 🚌 *from York or Helmsley.* 🚆 *Thirsk.* 🕐 *Apr–Sep: Wed–Sun.* 🎟 ♿ *limited.* **www**.english-heritage.org.uk/yorkshire

This Cistercian monastery was founded in 1177 by monks from Furness Abbey in Cumbria. It featured what was then the largest Cistercian church in Britain, 100 m (328 ft) long and 41 m (135 ft) wide across the transepts. The lay-out of the monastery, including cloisters and the west front of the church, is still visible, as is the green and yellow glazed tile floor. Fine workmanship is shown in carved stone details and in the capitals, kept in the small museum.

Shandy Hall, home of author Laurence Sterne, now a museum

In 1322 the Battle of Byland was fought nearby, and King Edward II *(see p40)* narrowly escaped capture when the invading Scottish army learned that he was dining with the Abbot. In his hurry to escape, the king had to leave many treasures behind, which were looted by the invading soldiers.

Coxwold ⓫

North Yorkshire. 👥 *160.* ℹ *49 Market Place, Thirsk (01845 522755).* **www**.herriotcountry.com

Situated just inside the bounds of the North York Moors National Park *(see p395),* this charming village nestles at the foot of the Howardian Hills. Its pretty houses are built from local stone, and the 15th-century church has some fine Georgian

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp586–588 and pp638–640

box pews and an impressive octagonal tower. But Coxwold is best known as the home of the author Laurence Sterne (1713–68), whose writings include *Tristram Shandy* and *A Sentimental Journey*.

Sterne moved here in 1760 as the church curate. He rented a rambling house that he named **Shandy Hall** after a Yorkshire expression meaning eccentric. Originally built as a timber-framed, open-halled house in the 15th century, it was modernized in the 17th century and Sterne later added a façade. His grave lies beside the porch at Coxwold's church.

Shandy Hall
Coxwold. ***Tel*** *01347 868465.*
○ *May–Sep: Wed & Sun (pm).* 🚫 ♿ *limited.* **Gardens** ○ *May–Sep: Sun–Fri.* 🛍

Nunnington Hall ⑫

(NT) Nunnington, York. ***Tel*** *01439 748283.* 🚆 *Malton, then bus or taxi.* ○ *Tue–Sun.* 🛍 🚫 ♿ *ground floor.* ☕

Set in alluring surroundings, this 17th-century manor house is a combination of architectural styles, including features from the Elizabethan and Stuart periods. Both inside and outside, a notable architectural feature is the use of the broken pediment (the upper arch is left unjoined).

Nunnington Hall was a family home until 1952, when Mrs Ronald Fife donated it to the National Trust. A striking feature is the panelling in the Oak Hall. Formerly painted, it extends over the three-arched screen to the Great Staircase. Nunnington's collection of 22 miniature furnished period rooms is popular with visitors.

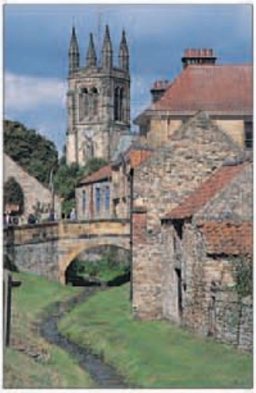
A mid-16th-century tenant Dr Robert Huickes, physician to Henry VIII *(see pp50–51)*, is best known for advising Elizabeth I that she should not, at the age of 32, consider having any children.

The miniature Queen Anne drawing room at Nunnington Hall

Helmsley ⑬

North Yorkshire. 👥 *2,000.* 🚌 *from Malton or Scarborough.* ℹ *Helmsley Castle (01439 770173).* 🧺 *Fri.*
www.yorkshiremoorsandcoast.com

This pretty market town is noted for its castle, now an imposing ruin. Built from 1186 to 1227, its main function and strength as a fortress is illustrated by the remaining keep, tower and curtain walls. The original D-shaped keep had one part blasted away in the Civil War *(see p52)*, but remains the dominant feature. The castle was so impregnable that there were few attempts to force entry. However, in 1644, after holding out for a three-month seige against Sir Thomas Fairfax, the Parliamentary general, the castle was finally taken.

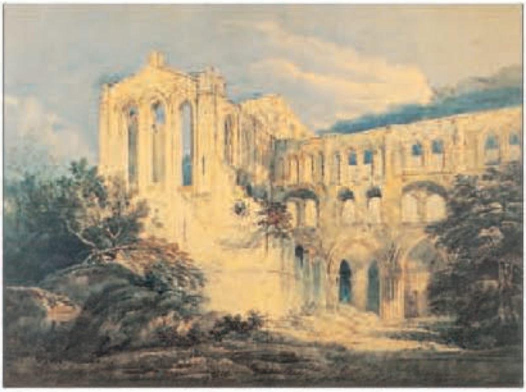


Helmsley church tower

Rievaulx Abbey ⑭

(EH) Nr Helmsley, North Yorkshire. ***Tel*** *01439 798228.* 🚆 *Thirsk or Scarborough, then bus or taxi.* ○ *Apr–Sep: daily; Oct–Mar: Thu–Mon.* ● *24–26 Dec, 1 Jan.* 🚫 ♿ *limited.* 🛍

Rievaulx is perhaps the finest abbey in the area, due to both its dramatic setting in the steep wooded valley of the River Rye and its extensive remains. It is surrounded by steep banks that form natural barriers from the outside world. Monks of the French Cistercian order from Clairvaux founded this, their first major monastery in Britain, in 1132. The main buildings were finished before 1200. The layout of the chapel, kitchens and infirmary give an idea of monastic life.



Rievaulx Abbey, painted by Thomas Girtin (1775–1802)

Mount Grace Priory ruins, with farm and mansion in foreground

Mount Grace Priory ⑮

(EH/NT) On A19, NE of Northallerton, North Yorks. ***Tel*** *01609 883494.* ⇌ *Northallerton then bus 89.* ○ *Apr–Sep: Thu–Mon; Oct–Mar: Thu–Sun.* 💷 ♿ *ground floor, shop & grounds.* 🛍 **www**.nationaltrust.org.uk

Founded by Thomas Holland, Duke of Surrey, and in use from 1398 until 1539, this is the best-preserved Carthusian or charterhouse monastery *(see pp350–51)* in England. The monks took a vow of silence and lived in solitary cells, each with his own garden and an angled hatch so that he would not even see the person serving his food. They only met at matins, vespers and feast-day services. Attempts at escape by those who could not endure the rigour of the rules were punished by imprisonment.

The ruins of the priory include the former prison, gatehouse and outer court, barns, guesthouses, cells and the church. The 14th-century church, the best-preserved section of the site, is particularly small, as it was only rarely used by the community. A cell has been reconstructed to give an impression of monastic life.

Hutton-le-Hole ⑯

North Yorkshire. 👥 *400.* ⇌ *Pickering then bus (seasonal service).* ℹ *The Ropery, Pickering (01751 473791).* **www**.ryedale.co.uk

This picturesque village is characterized by a spacious green, grazed by roaming sheep, and surrounded by houses, an inn and shops. Lengths of white wood, replacing stone bridges, span the moorland stream. Its cottages, some with date panels over the doors, are made from limestone, with red pantiled roofs. In the village centre is the excellent **Ryedale Folk Museum**, which records the lifestyle of an agricultural community using Romano-British artifacts and reconstructed buildings.

🏛 Ryedale Folk Museum
Hutton-le-Hole. ***Tel*** *01751 417367.* ○ *late Jan–mid-Dec: daily.* 💷 ♿ 🛍

North York Moors ⑰

See p395.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway ⑱

Pickering & Grosmont, North Yorkshire. ***Tel*** *01751 472508.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily; Nov–Mar: some weekends (call for details).* 💷 ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.nymr.co.uk

Designed in 1831 by George Stephenson as a route along the North York Moors and links with the Esk Valley, Pickering and Whitby *(see p382)*, this railway was considered an engineering miracle. Due to budget constraints, Stephenson was not able to build a tunnel, so had to lay the route down the mile-long (1.5 km) incline between Beck Hole and Goathland. The area around Fen Bog had to be stabilized using timber, heather, brushwood and fleeces so that a causeway could be built over it. A horse was used to pull a coach along the track at 10 miles (16 km) per hour. After horsepower came steam, and for almost 130 years the railway linked Whitby to the rest of the country. In the early 1960s the line was closed, but in 1967 a group of locals began a campaign to relaunch it, and in 1973 it officially reopened. Today, steam engines run the 18-mile (29-km) line from Pickering via Levisham, Newtondale Halt and Goathland before stopping at Grosmont, through the scenic heart of the North York Moors.

Wheelwright's workshop at Ryedale Folk Museum

North York Moors ⑰

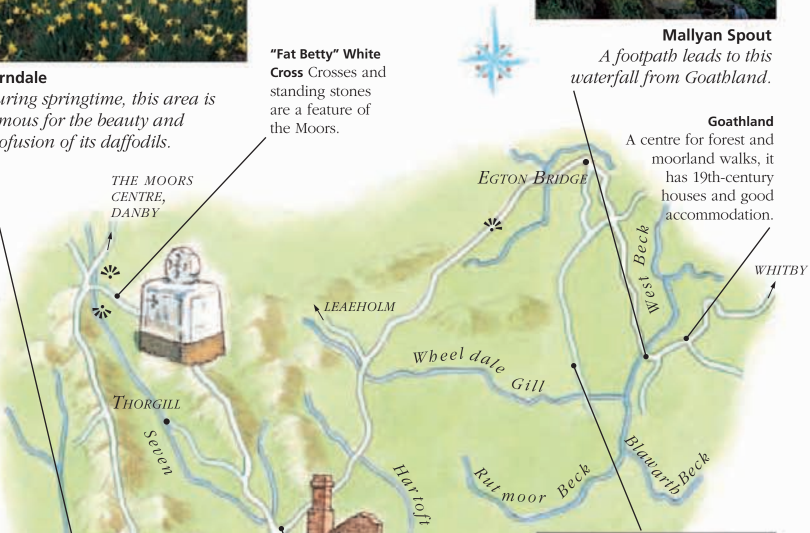
The area between Cleveland, the Vale of York and the Vale of Pickering is known as the North York Moors National Park. The landscape consists of bleak yet beautiful moors interspersed with lush green valleys. Agriculture is still the main source of income here as it has been for centuries, and until the advent of coal, the communities' local source of fuel was turf. In the 19th century, the geology of the area created extractive industries which included ironstone, lime, coal and building stone.

Farndale
During springtime, this area is famous for the beauty and profusion of its daffodils.

Mallyan Spout
A footpath leads to this waterfall from Goathland.

"Fat Betty" White Cross Crosses and standing stones are a feature of the Moors.

Goathland
A centre for forest and moorland walks, it has 19th-century houses and good accommodation.



Rosedale Abbey
Named after the priory that has long since gone, this beautiful village still has some remains of the kilns from its 19th-century ironstone mining industry.

Hutton-le-Hole
This lovely village has the excellent Ryedale Folk Museum.

Wade's Causeway
Often called the Roman Road, its origins and destination are unknown. Long considered Roman in date, this is now less certain, although it may date from towards the end of the Roman occupation.

Lastingham
Lastingham's church, dating from 1078, has a Norman crypt with stone carving.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

North Yorkshire. 🚆 *Danby.* 🚌 *Pickering (Easter–Oct).* **Moorsbus** ***Tel*** *01845 597000.* ℹ *Sutton Bank (01845 597426); Moors Centre (01439 772737).* **www.** northyorkmoors.org.uk

Whitby ⑲

Jet comb (c.1870)

Whitby's known history dates back to the 7th century, when a Saxon monastery was founded on the site of today's famous 13th-century abbey ruins. In the 18th and early 19th centuries it became an industrial port and shipbuilding town, as well as a whaling centre.

In the Victorian era, the red-roofed cottages at the foot of the east cliff were filled with workshops crafting jet into jewellery and ornaments. Today, the tourist shops that have replaced them sell antique-crafted examples of the distinctive black gem.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

North Yorkshire. 👥 *13,500.* ✈ *Teeside, 50 miles (80 km) ÑNW Whitby.* 🚆 *Station Sq.* ℹ *Langborne Rd (01723 383637).* 🛒 *Tue, Sat.* 🎪 *Whitby Festival: Jun; Angling Festival: Apr; Lifeboat Day: Jul or Aug; Folk Week: Aug; Whitby Regatta: Aug.* **www.**discoveryorkshirecoast.com

Exploring Whitby

Whitby is divided into two by the estuary of the River Esk. The Old Town, with its pretty cobbled streets and pastel-hued houses, huddles round the harbour. High above it is St Mary's Church with a wood interior reputedly fitted by ships' carpenters. The ruins of the 13th-century Whitby Abbey, nearby, are still used as a landmark by mariners. From them you get a fine view over the still-busy harbour, strewn with colourful nets. A pleasant place for a stroll, the harbour is overlooked by an imposing bronze clifftop statue of the explorer Captain James Cook (1728–79), who was apprenticed as a teenager to a Whitby shipping firm.

Medieval arches above the nave of Whitby Abbey

Whitby Abbey

(EH) Abbey Lane. ***Tel*** *01947 603568.*
○ *Apr–Sep: daily; Oct–Mar: Thu–Mon.*
● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 📷 ♿ 🛍

The monastery founded in 657 was sacked by Vikings in 870. In the 11th century it was rebuilt as a Benedictine Abbey. The ruins date mainly from the 13th century. The Visitor Centre provides further information.

Lobster pots lining the quayside of Whitby's quaint harbour

St Mary's Parish Church

East Cliff. ***Tel*** *01947 606578.* ○ *daily.*

Stuart and Georgian alterations to this Norman church have left a mixture of twisted wood columns and maze-like 18th-century box pews. The 1778 triple-decker pulpit has rather avant-garde decor – ear-trumpets used by a Victorian rector's deaf wife.

Captain Cook Memorial Museum

Grape Lane. ***Tel*** *01947 601900.* ○ *Mar–Oct & Feb half-term: daily.* 📷 🛍 ♿ *limited.* **www.**cookmuseumwhitby.co.uk

The young James Cook slept in the attic of this 17th-century harbourside house when he was apprenticed nearby. The museum has displays of period furniture and watercolours by artists who travelled on his voyages.

Whitby Museum and Pannett Art Gallery

Pannett Park. ***Tel*** *01947 602908* (museum), *01947 602051* (gallery). ○ *Tue–Sun & public hols.* ● *Sun: am; 24 Dec–2 Jan.* 📷 *museum only.* ♿ *limited.* 🛍

The Pannett Park grounds, museum and gallery were a gift of Whitby solicitor, Robert Pannett (1834–1920), to house his art collection. Among the museum's treasures are objects illustrating local history, such as jet jewellery, and Captain Cook artifacts.

The three-storey extension at the museum, completed in 2005, houses a costume gallery and photography and map collections.

Caedmon's Cross

East Cliff.

On the path side of the abbey's clifftop graveyard is the cross of Caedmon, an illiterate labourer who worked at the abbey in the 7th century. He experienced a vision that inspired him to compose cantos of Anglo-Saxon religious verse, which are still sung today.

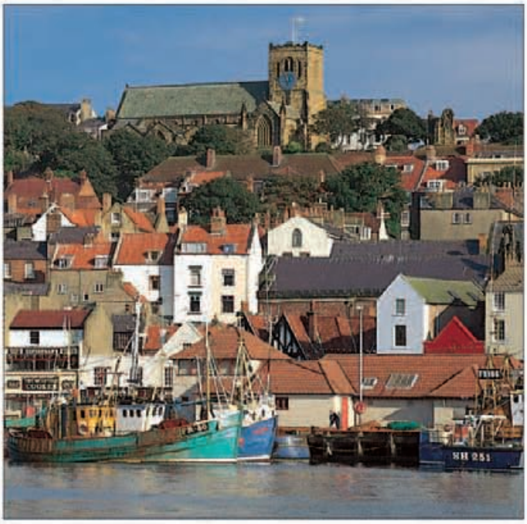
Cross of Caedmon (1898)

Robin Hood's Bay ⑳

North Yorkshire. 👥 *1,400.*
🚆 🚌 *Whitby.* ℹ *Langbourne Rd, Whitby (01723 383637).*
www.robin-hoods-bay.co.uk

Legend has it that Robin Hood *(see p336)* kept his boats here in case he needed to make a quick getaway. The village has a history as a smugglers' haven, and many houses have ingenious hiding places for contraband. The cobbled main street is so steep that visitors need to leave their vehicles in the car park. In the village centre, attractive, narrow streets full of colour-washed stone cottages huddle around a quaint quay. There is a rocky beach with rock pools for children to play in. At low tide, the pleasant walk south to Boggle Hole takes 15 minutes, but you need to keep an eye on the tides.

Cobbled alley in the Bay Town area of Robin Hood's Bay



The fishing port and town of Scarborough nestling round the harbour

Scarborough ㉑

North Yorkshire. 👥 *54,000.* 🚆
🚌 ℹ *Brundwick Shopping Centre (01723 383636).* ⊖ *Mon–Sat.*
www.discoveryorkshirecoast.com

The history of Scarborough as a resort can be traced back to 1626, when it became known as a spa. In the Industrial Revolution *(see pp348–9)* it was nicknamed "the Queen of the Watering Places", but the post-World War II trend for holidays abroad has meant fewer visitors. The town has two beaches; the South Bay amusement arcades contrast with the quieter North Bay. Playwright Alan Ayckbourn premiers his work at the Stephen Joseph theatre, and Anne Brontë *(see p412)* is buried in St Mary's Church.

Bronze and Iron Age relics have been found on the site of **Scarborough Castle**. The **Rotunda** (1828–9), which underwent a major refurbishment during 2007, was one of Britain's first purpose-built museums. Works by the local artist Atkinson Grimshaw (1836–93) hang in **Scarborough Art Gallery**. The **Sea-Life and Marine Sanctuary**'s baby seals are its main attraction.

Scarborough Castle
(EH) Castle Rd. ***Tel*** *01723 372451.*
○ *Apr–Sep: daily; Oct–mid-Mar: Thu–Mon.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.*
♿

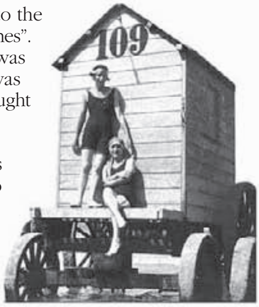
Rotunda Museum
Vernon Rd. ***Tel*** *01723 353665.*
○ *Jun–Sep: Tue–Sun; Oct–May: Tue, Sat, Sun & public hols.*
● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.*

Scarborough Art Gallery
The Crescent. ***Tel*** *01723 374753.*
○ *Tue–Sun.* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* **www**.scarboroughartgallery.co.uk

Sea-Life and Marine Sanctuary
Scalby Mills Rd. ***Tel*** *0871 4232110.*
○ *daily.* ● *25 Dec.* ♿
www.sealife.co.uk

THE GROWING POPULARITY OF SWIMMING

During the 18th century, sea-bathing came to be regarded as a healthy pastime, and from 1735 onwards men and women, on separate stretches of the coast, could be taken out into the sea in bathing huts, or "machines". In the 18th century, bathing was segregated although nudity was permitted. The Victorians brought in fully clothed bathing, and 19th-century workers from Britain's industrial heartlands used the new steam trains to visit the coast for their holidays. At this time, British seaside resorts such as Blackpool *(see p371)* and Scarborough expanded to meet the new demand.

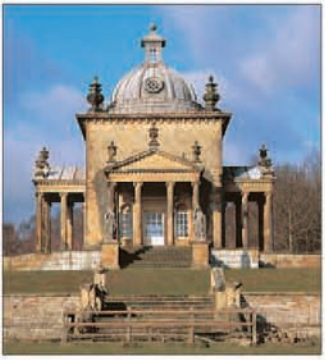


A Victorian bathing hut on wheels

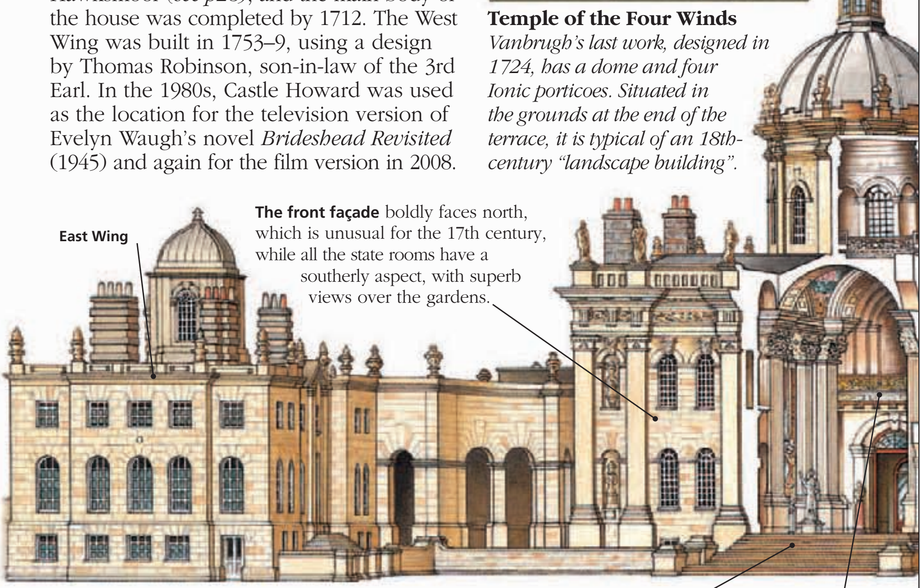
Castle Howard ㉒

Pillar detail in the Great Hall, carved by Samuel Carpenter

Still owned and lived in by the Howard family, Castle Howard was created by Charles, 3rd Earl of Carlisle. In 1699, he commissioned Sir John Vanbrugh, a man of dramatic ideas but with no previous architectural experience, to design a palace for him. Vanbrugh's grand designs of 1699 were put into practice by architect Nicholas Hawksmoor *(see p28)*, and the main body of the house was completed by 1712. The West Wing was built in 1753–9, using a design by Thomas Robinson, son-in-law of the 3rd Earl. In the 1980s, Castle Howard was used as the location for the television version of Evelyn Waugh's novel *Brideshead Revisited* (1945) and again for the film version in 2008.



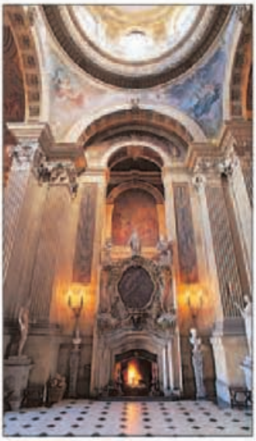
Temple of the Four Winds
Vanbrugh's last work, designed in 1724, has a dome and four Ionic porticoes. Situated in the grounds at the end of the terrace, it is typical of an 18th-century "landscape building".



East Wing

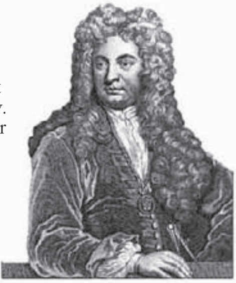
The front façade boldly faces north, which is unusual for the 17th century, while all the state rooms have a southerly aspect, with superb views over the gardens.

North Front



★ Great Hall
Rising 20 m (66 ft), from its 515 sq m (5,500 sq ft) floor to the dome, the Great Hall has columns by Samuel Carpenter (1660–1713), wall paintings by Pellegrini and a circular gallery.

SIR JOHN VANBRUGH



Vanbrugh (1664–1726) trained as a soldier, but became better known as a playwright, architect and member of the Whig nobility. He collaborated with Hawksmoor over the design of Blenheim Palace, but his bold architectural vision, later greatly admired, was mocked by the establishment. He died while working on the garden buildings and grounds of Castle Howard.

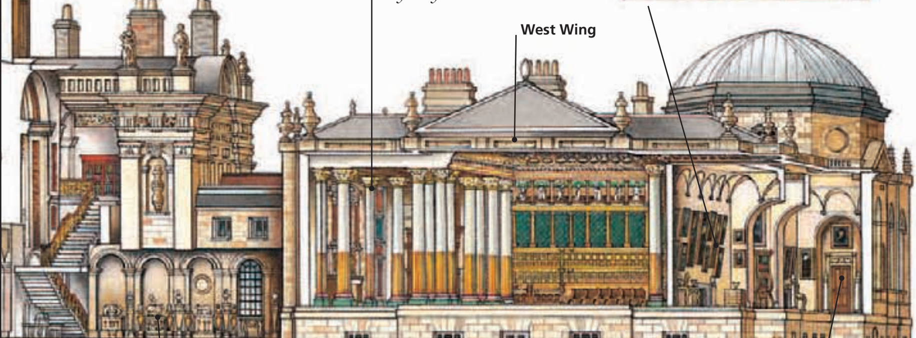
Chapel Stained Glass
Admiral Edward Howard altered the chapel in 1870–75. The windows were designed by Edward Burne-Jones and made by William Morris & Co.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

A64 from York. ***Tel*** *01653 648 333.* 🚆 *York then bus, or Malton then taxi.* **House** ○ *Mar–Oct: 11am–4pm daily.* **Grounds** ○ *10am–4:30pm daily.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.castlehoward.co.uk

Bust of the 7th Earl
J H Foley sculpted this portrait bust, which stands at the top of the Grand Staircase in the West Wing, in 1870.

★ Long Gallery
Displayed here are paintings and sculptures commissioned by the Howard family, including works by Reynolds and Pannini.



Antique Passage
Antiquities collected in the 18th and 19th centuries by the various Earls of Carlisle are on display here. The plethora of mythical figures and gods reflects contemporary interest in Classical civilizations.

Museum Room
Furniture here includes Regency chairs, a bronze collection and this 17th-century cabinet.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Great Hall
- ★ Long Gallery

Eden Camp ㉓

Malton, North Yorkshire. ***Tel*** *01653 697777.* 🚆 *Malton then taxi.* ○ *mid-Jan–late Dec: daily.* 🛍 ✍ ♿ ☕ **www**.edencamp.co.uk

This is an unusual, award-winning theme museum which pays tribute to the British people during World War II. Italian and German prisoners of war were kept at Eden Camp between 1939 and 1948. Today, some original huts built by Italian prisoners in 1942 are used as a museum, with period tableaux and a soundtrack. Each hut adopts a theme to take the visitor through civilian life in wartime, from Chamberlain's radio announcement of the outbreak of hostilities to the coming of peace. Visitors, including schoolchildren and nostalgic veterans, can see the Doodlebug V-1 bomb which crashed outside the Officers' Mess, take tea in the canteen or experience a night in the Blitz. A tour can last for several hours.

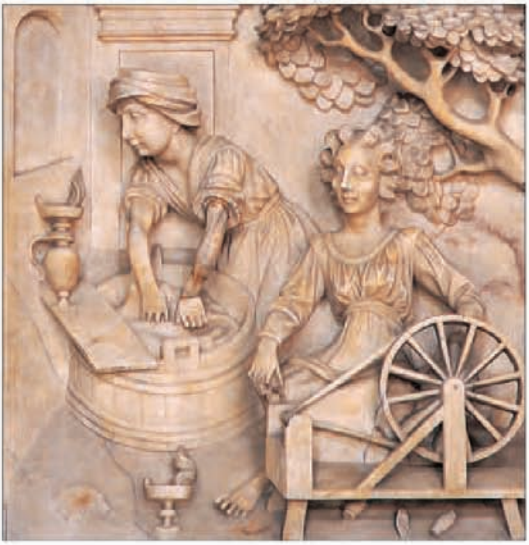
EDEN CAMP
MUSEUM

British and American flags by the sign for Eden Camp

Wharram Percy ㉔

(EH) North Yorkshire. ***Tel*** *01904 601 901.* ℹ *01653 600 048.* 🚆 *Malton, then taxi.* ○ *daily.* **www**.english-heritage.org.uk/wharrampercy

This is one of England's most important medieval village sites. Excavations have unearthed evidence of a 30-household community, with two manors, and the remains of a medieval church. There is also a millpond which has beautiful wild flowers in late spring. Wharram Percy is set in a pretty valley, sign-posted off the B1248 from Burdale, in the heart of the Wolds. It is about 20 minutes' walk from the car park and makes an ideal picnic stop.



Alabaster carving on the chimney-piece at Burton Agnes

Burton Agnes ㉕

On A614, nr Driffield, East Yorks. ***Tel*** *01262 490324.* 🚆 *Driffield, then bus.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily.* ✍ ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.burtonagnes.com

Of all the grand houses in this area, Burton Agnes Hall is a firm favourite. This is partly because the attractive, red-brick Elizabethan mansion has such a homely atmosphere. One of the first portraits you see in the Small Hall is of Anne Griffith, whose father, Sir Henry, built the house. There is a monument to him in the local church.

Burton Agnes has remained in the hands of the original family and has changed little since it was built, between 1598 and 1610. You enter it by the turreted gatehouse, and the entrance hall has a fine Elizabethan alabaster chimney piece. The massive oak staircase is an impressive example of Elizabethan woodcarving.

In the library is a collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art, pleasantly out of character with the rest of the house, including works by André Derain, Renoir and Augustus John. The extensive grounds include a purpose-built play area for children.

Bempton and Flamborough Head ㉖

East Yorkshire. 👥 *4,300.* 🚆 *Bempton.* 🚌 *Bridlington.* ℹ *25 Prince St, Bridlington (01262 673474).* **www**.eastriding.gov.uk

Bempton, which consists of 5 miles (8 km) of steep chalk cliffs between Speeton and Flamborough Head, is the largest seabird-breeding colony in England, and is famous for its puffins. The ledges and fissures provide ideal nest-sites for more

Nesting gannet on the chalk cliffs at Bempton

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp586–588 and pp638–640

than 100,000 pairs of birds. Today, eight different species, including skinny black shags and kittiwakes, thrive on the Grade 1 listed *(see p671)* Bempton cliffs. Bempton is the only mainland site for goose-sized gannets, well known for their dramatic fishing techniques. May, June and July are the best bird-watching months.

The spectacular cliffs are best seen from the north side of the Flamborough Head peninsula.

Beverley ㉗

East Riding of Yorkshire. 👥 *30,000.*
ℹ *34 Butcher Row (01482 391672).*
⛺ *Sat.* **www**.eastriding.gov.uk

The history of Beverley dates back to the 8th century, when Old Beverley served as a retreat for John, later Bishop of York, who was canonized for his healing powers. Over the centuries Beverley grew as a medieval sanctuary town. Like York, it is an attractive combination of both medieval and Georgian buildings.

Minstrel Pillar in St Mary's Church

The best way to enter Beverley is through the last of five medieval town gates, the castellated North Bar (rebuilt 1409–10). The bars were constructed so that market goods had to pass through them and a toll (levy) paid.

The skyline is dominated by the twin towers of the magnificent **minster**. This was co-founded in 937 by Athelstan, King of Wessex, in place of the church that John of Beverley had chosen as his final resting place in 721. The decorated nave is the earliest surviving building work which dates back to the early 1300s. It is particularly famous for its 16th-century choir stalls and 68 misericords *(see p341).*

The minster contains many early detailed stone carvings, including a set of four from about 1308 that illustrate figures with ailments such as toothache and lumbago. On the north side of the altar is the richly carved 14th-century Gothic Percy tomb, thought to be that of Lady Idoine Percy. Also on the north side is the Fridstol, or Peace Chair, said to date from 924-39, the time of Athelstan. Anyone who sat on it would be granted 30 days' sanctuary.

Within the North Bar, **St Mary's Church** has a 13th-century chancel and houses Britain's largest number of medieval stone carvings of musical instruments. The brightly painted 16th-century Minstrel Pillar is particularly notable. Painted on the panelled chancel ceiling are portraits of monarchs after 1445. On the richly sculpted doorway of St Michael's Chapel is the grinning pilgrim rabbit said to have inspired Lewis Carroll's White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland.*

The inspiration for Lewis Carroll's White Rabbit, St Mary's Church

There is a great day out to be had at **Beverley Races**, with various theme days throughout the season and excellent food and drink.

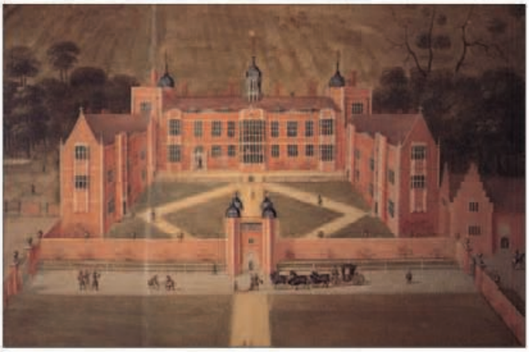
Beverley Races
York Rd. ***Tel*** *01482 867488.*
○ *20 meetings Apr–Sep.*
♿ 🍴 **www**.beverleyracecourse.co.uk

Beverley Minster, one of Europe's finest examples of Gothic architecture

Burton Constable ㉘

Nr Hull, East Yorkshire. ***Tel** 01964 562400.* 🚆 *Hull then taxi.* ○ *Easter–Oct: Sat–Thu.* ♿ ☕
www.burtonconstable.com

The Constable family have been leading landowners since the 13th century, and have lived at Burton Constable Hall since work began on it in 1570. It is an Elizabethan house, altered in the 18th century by Thomas Lightholer, Thomas Atkinson and James Wyatt. Today, its 30 rooms include Georgian and Victorian interiors. It has a fine collection of Chippendale furniture and family portraits dating from the 16th century. Most of the collections of prints, textiles and drawings belong to Leeds City Art Galleries. The family still lives in the south wing.



Painting of Burton Constable (c.1690) by an anonymous artist

The Princes' Dock in Kingston upon Hull's restored docks area

Kingston upon Hull ㉙

Kingston upon Hull. *270,000.* 🚆 🚌 ⛴ ℹ *Paragon St. (01482 223559).* *Mon–Sat.*
www.hullcc.gov.uk

There is a lot more to Hull than the heritage of a thriving fishing industry. The restored town centre docks are attractive, and Hull's Old Town, laid out in medieval times, is all cobbled, winding streets and quaintly askew red-brick houses. You can follow the "Seven Seas" Fish Trail, a path of inlaid metal fishes on the city's pavements that illustrates the many different varieties that have been landed in Hull, from anchovy to shark.

In Victoria Square is the **Maritime Museum**. Built in 1871 as the offices of the Hull Dock Company, it traces the city's maritime history. Among its exhibits are an ornate whalebone and vertebrae bench and a display of complicated rope knots such as the Eye Splice and the Midshipman's Hitch.

An imposing Elizabethan building, **Hands on History**, explores Hull's story through a collection of some of its families' artifacts.

In the heart of the Old Town, the **William Wilberforce House** is one of the surviving examples of the High Street's brick merchants' dwellings. Its first-floor oak-panelled rooms date from the 17th century, but most of the house is dedicated to the Wilberforce family. The house has undergone a huge refurbishment costing around £1.6 million.

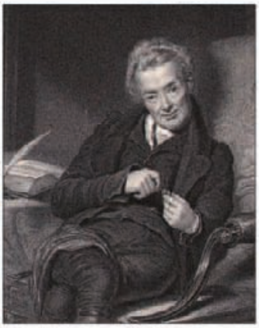
Nearby is the **Streetlife Transport Museum**, Hull's most popular and noisiest museum, loved by children. It features Britain's oldest tramcar. New to Hull, at the mouth of the River Hull, **The Deep** is the world's only submarium, in a stunning building and dramatic setting. With lots of exciting sea life and state-of-the-art technology, it is ideal for families.

Maritime Museum
Queen Victoria Sq ***Tel** 01482 300300.* ○ *daily (Sun: pm).*
♿
www.hullcc.gov.uk/museums

Hands on History
South Churchside. ***Tel** 01482 300300.* ○ *daily (Sun: pm).* ● *1 Jan, Good Fri, 24–28 Dec.* ♿

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE (1758–1833)

William Wilberforce, born in Hull to a merchant family, was a natural orator. After studying Classics at Cambridge, he entered politics and in 1784 gave one of his first public addresses in York. The audience was captivated, and Wilberforce realized the potential of his powers of persuasion. From 1785 onwards, adopted by the Pitt government as spokesman for the abolition of slavery, he conducted a determined and conscientious campaign. But his speeches won him enemies, and in 1792, threats from a slave-importer meant that he needed a constant armed guard. In 1807 his bill to abolish the lucrative slave trade became law.



A 19th-century engraving of Wilberforce by J Jenkins

🏛 **William Wilberforce House**
High St, Hull. ***Tel*** *01482 300300.*
○ *daily (Sun: pm).* 🛍 ♿ *limited.*

🏛 **Streetlife Transport Museum**
High St, Hull. ***Tel*** *01482 300300.*
○ *Mon–Sat, Sun pm.* ♿ 🛍

The Deep
Hull (via Citadel Way). ***Tel*** *01482 381 000.* ○ *daily.* ● *24, 25 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 🅿 **www**.thedeep.co.uk

Holderness and Spurn Head ㉚

East Riding of Yorkshire. 🚆 *Hull (Paragon St) then bus.* ℹ *120 Newbegin, Hornsea (01964 536404).*

This curious flat area east of Hull, with straight roads and delicately waving fields of oats and barley, in many ways resembles Holland, except that its mills are derelict. Beaches stretch for 30 miles (46 km) along the coastline. The main resort towns are **Withernsea** and **Hornsea**.

The Holderness landscape only exists because of erosion higher up the coast. The sea continues to wash down tiny bits of rock which accumulate. Around 1560, this began to form a sandbank, and by 1669 it had became large enough to be colonized as Sonke Sand. The last bits of silting mud and debris joined the island to the mainland as recently as the 1830s. Today, you can drive through the eerie, lush wilderness of Sunk Island on the way east to Spurn Head. This is located at the tip of the Spurn Peninsula, a 3.5 mile (6 km) spit of land that has also built up as the result of coastal erosion elsewhere. Flora, fauna and birdlife have been protected here by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust since 1960. Walking here gives the eerie feeling that the land could be eroded from under your feet at any time. A surprise discovery at the end of Spurn Head is a tiny community of pilots and lifeboat crew, constantly on call to guide ships into Hull harbour, or help cope with disasters.

Fishing boat at Grimsby's National Fishing Heritage Centre

Grimsby ㉛

NE Lincs. 👥 *92,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *Cleethorpes Library, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes (01472 323111).* **www**. nelincs.gov.uk

Perched at the mouth of the River Humber, Grimsby was founded in the Middle Ages by a Danish fisherman by the name of Grim, and rose to prominence in the 19th century as one of the world's largest fishing ports. Its first dock was opened in 1800 and, with the arrival of the railways, the town secured the means of transporting its catch all over the country. Even though the traditional fishing industry had declined by the 1970s, dock area redevelopment has ensured that Grimsby's unique heritage is retained.

This is best demonstrated by the award-winning **National Fishing Heritage Centre**, a museum that recreates the industry in its 1950s heyday, capturing the atmosphere of the period. Visitors sign on as crew members on a trawler and, by means of vivid interactive displays, travel from the back streets of Grimsby to the Arctic fishing grounds. On the way, they can experience the roll of the ship, the smell of the fish and the heat of the engine. The tour ends with a look at the restored 1950s trawler, the *Ross Tiger*.

Other attractions in Grimsby include an International Jazz Festival every September, a restored Victorian shopping street called Abbeygate, a market, a wide selection of restaurants, and the nearby seaside resorts of Cleethorpes, Mablethorpe and Skegness.

🏛 **National Fishing Heritage Centre**
Heritage Sq, Alexandra Dock. ***Tel*** *01472 323345.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍

Isolated lighthouse at Spurn Head, at the tip of Spurn Peninsula

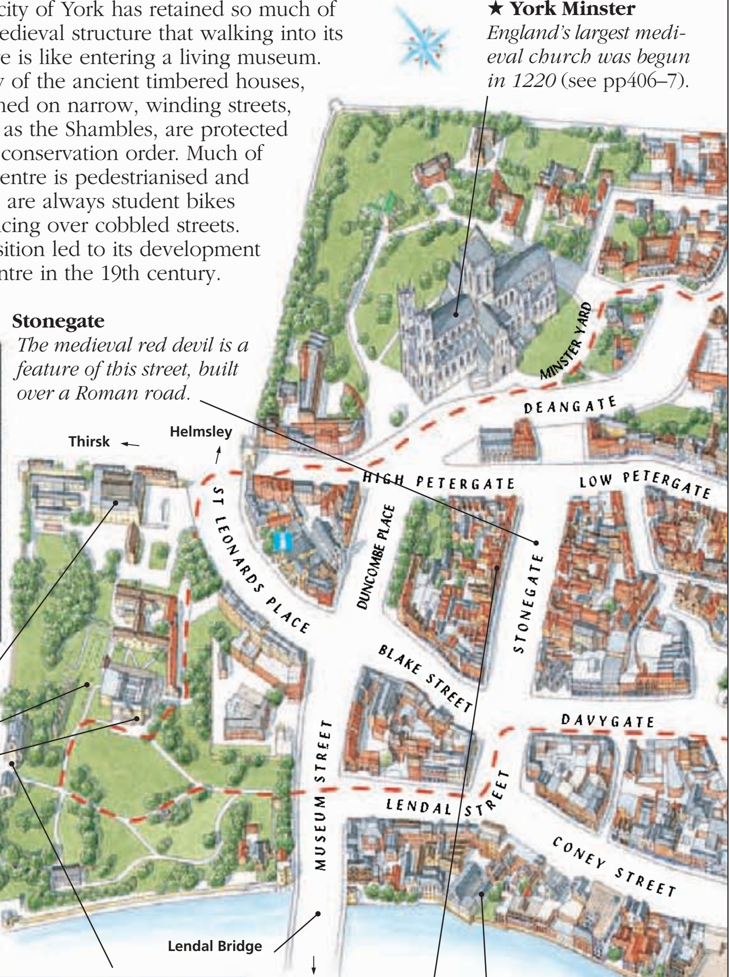
Street-by-Street: York ㉜

Monk Bar coat of arms

The city of York has retained so much of its medieval structure that walking into its centre is like entering a living museum. Many of the ancient timbered houses, perched on narrow, winding streets, such as the Shambles, are protected by a conservation order. Much of the centre is pedestrianised and there are always student bikes bouncing over cobbled streets. Its strategic position led to its development as a railway centre in the 19th century.

★ York Minster
England's largest medieval church was begun in 1220 (see pp406–7).

Stonegate
The medieval red devil is a feature of this street, built over a Roman road.



MINSTER YARD
DEANGATE
Helmsley
Thirsk
HIGH PETERGATE
LOW PETERGATE
ST LEONARDS PLACE
DUNCOMBE PLACE
STONEGATE
BLAKE STREET
DAVYGATE
MUSEUM STREET
LENDAL STREET
CONEY STREET
OUSE

York Art Gallery

St Mary's Abbey

Yorkshire Museum is home to some of the most fascinating archeology in the country.

Lendal Bridge

Railway station, coach station, National Railway Museum, and Leeds

Ye Old Starre Inne is one of the oldest pubs in York.

St Olave's Church
The 11th-century church, next to the gatehouse of St Mary's Abbey (see p350), *was founded by the Earl of Northumbria in memory of St Olaf, King of Norway. To the left is the Chapel of St Mary on the Walls.*

Guildhall
This two-headed medieval roof boss is on the 15th-century Guildhall, situated beside the River Ouse and restored after bomb damage during World War II.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

York. 👥 *200,000.* ✈ *Leeds & Bradford, 11 miles (18 km) NW Leeds.* 🚆 *Station Rd.* 🚌 *Station Rd.* ℹ *De Grey Rooms, Exhibition Square (01904 550099 & railway stn.* ⛺ *daily.* 🎪 *Jorvik Festival: Feb; Early Music Festival: Jul.* 🚶 *(Association of Voluntary Guides, from Exhibition Sq): Apr–Oct: 10:15am, 2:15pm & 6:45pm; Jun–Aug: 7pm; Nov–Mar: 10:15am.* **www**.visityork.org

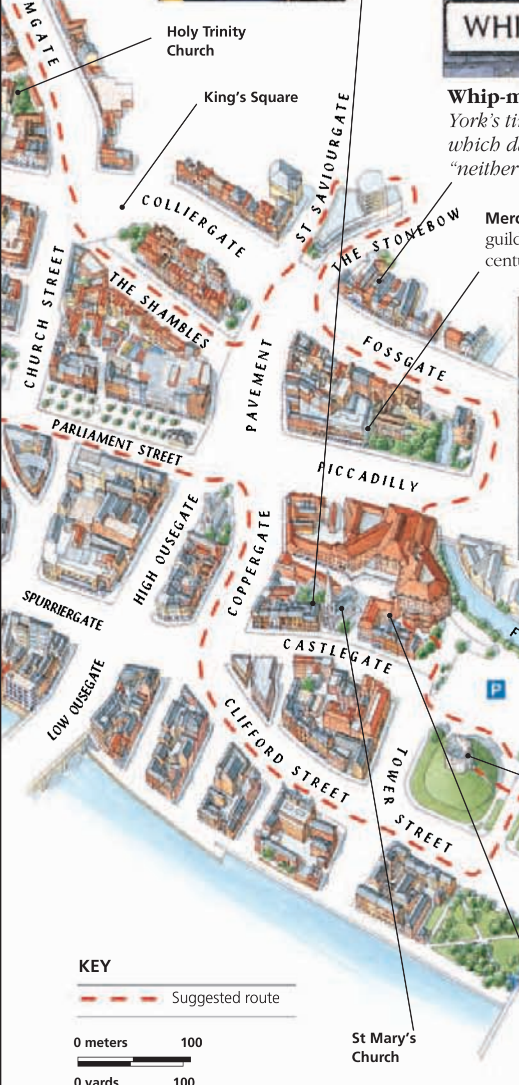
★ Jorvik
The many artifacts on show here illustrate the time when York was a strategic Viking town. The street names ending in "gate" come from the Danish word gata, *meaning "street" or "way".*

WHIP·MA·WHOP·MA·GATE

Whip-ma-whop-ma-gate
York's tiniest street has the city's longest name, which dates from Saxon times and means "neither one thing nor the other".

Merchant Adventurer's Hall, built for a guild of merchant adventurers in the 14th century, is now a visitor attraction.

★ York Castle Museum
Converted from two prisons, this museum (see p408) *features print and blacksmith workshops, and the cell formerly used by highwayman Dick Turpin (1706–39).*


Monk Bar
Scarborough
Goodramgate
Holy Trinity Church
King's Square
Colliergate
St Saviourgate
The Stonebow
The Shambles
Church Street
Pavement
Fossgate
Parliament Street
Piccadilly
High Ousegate
Coppergate
Spurriergate
Castlegate
Foss
Low Ousegate
Clifford Street
Tower Street
P
Clifford's Tower
Hull →
Fairfax House
St Mary's Church
KEY
Suggested route
0 meters 100
0 yards 100

STAR SIGHTS

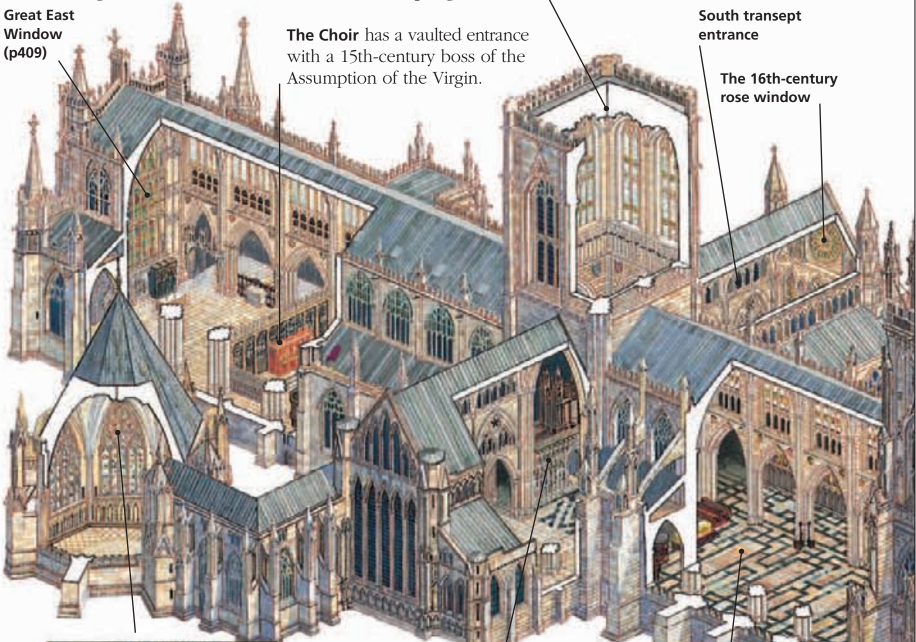
- ★ York Minster
- ★ Jorvik
- ★ York Castle Museum

York Minster

Central sunflower in rose window

The largest Gothic cathedral north of the Alps, and seat of the Archbishop of York, York Minster is 158 m (519 ft) long and 76 m (249 ft) wide across the transepts. It is also home to the largest collection of medieval stained glass in Britain (see p409). The word "minster" refers to a missionary teaching church in Anglo-Saxon times. The first minster began as a wooden chapel used to baptize King Edwin of Northumbria in 627. There have been several cathedrals on or near the site, including an 11th-century Norman structure. The present minster was begun in 1220 and completed 250 years later. In 1984, fire damage led to a £2.25 million restoration programme.

Central Tower
This lantern tower was reconstructed in 1420–65 (after partial collapse in 1407) from a design by the master stonemason William Colchester.



Great East Window (p409)

The Choir has a vaulted entrance with a 15th-century boss of the Assumption of the Virgin.

South transept entrance

The 16th-century rose window

★ Chapter House
A Latin inscription near the entrance of the wooden-vaulted Chapter House (1260–85) reads: "As the rose is the flower of flowers, so this is the house of houses".

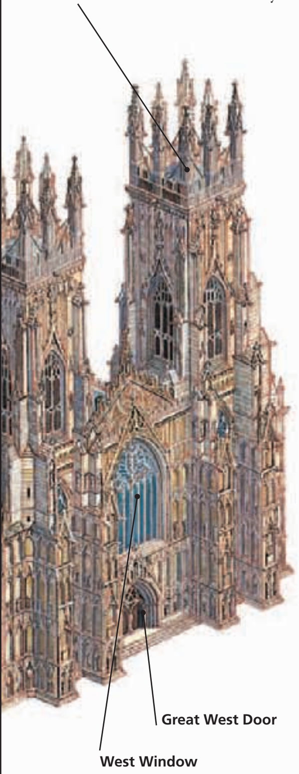
★ Choir Screen
Sited between the choir and the nave, this 15th-century stone screen depicts kings of England from William I to Henry VI, and has a canopy of angels.

The Nave, begun in 1291, was severely damaged by fire in 1840. Rebuilding costs were heavy, but it was re-opened with a new peal of bells in 1844.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Deangate, York. ***Tel*** *01904 557216.* ○ *Mon–Sat: 9am–5pm (from 9:30am Nov–Mar); Sun: noon–3:45pm. Opening times may change subject to major services.* ● *Good Fri, Easter Sun, 24 & 25 Dec.* 💰 *to Minster, Undercroft & the Tower.* ✝ *Mon–Sat: 7:30am, 7:45am, 12:30pm (also at noon Sat), 5:15pm (evensong); Sun: 8am, 10am, 11:30am, 4pm.* ♿ *main floors.* ☞ 🍴 🛍
www.yorkminster.org

The western towers, with their 15th-century decorative panelling and elaborate pinnacles, contrast with the simpler design of the north transept. The southwest tower is the minster belfry.



STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Chapter House
- ★ Choir Screen

Timbered interior of the Merchant Adventurers' Hall

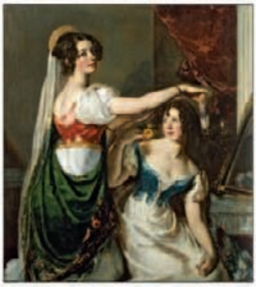
Monk Bar

This is one of York's finest original medieval gates, situated at the end of Goodramgate. It is vaulted on three floors, and the portcullis still works. In the Middle Ages, the rooms above it were rented out, and it was a prison in the 16th century. Its decorative details include men holding stones ready to drop on intruders.

York Art Gallery

Exhibition Sq. ***Tel*** *01904 687687.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.* 💰 ♿ 📺 🛍
www.yorkartgallery.org.uk

This Italianate building of 1879 holds a wide-ranging collection of paintings from western Europe dating from the early 14th century. The Gallery of Pots, on the first floor, has rotating exhibitions showcasing the gallery's large collection of British and foreign studio pottery. Work by Bernard Leach, William Staite Murray and Shoji Hamada is on display alongside details of the potters themselves and those who collected their work.


Preparing for a Fancy Dress Ball **(1833) by William Etty, York Art Gallery**

Clifford's Tower

(EH) Clifford's St. ***Tel*** *01904 646940.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 🛍 💰 **www**.english-heritage.org.uk

Sited on top of a mound that William the Conqueror built for his original wooden castle, destroyed by fire during anti-Jewish riots in 1190, Clifford's Tower dates from the 13th century. Built by Henry III, it was named after the de Clifford family, who were constables of the castle.

DIG – An Archaeological Adventure

St Saviourgate. ***Tel*** *01904 615505.* ○ *daily (best to book in advance).* ● *24–25 Dec.* 💰 ♿ 📺 🛍

Housed in a restored medieval church, this centre invites visitors to become archaeological detectives and discover how archaeologists have pieced together clues from the past to unravel the history of the Viking age in York.

Merchant Adventurers' Hall

Fossgate. ***Tel*** *01904 654818.* ○ *Easter–Sep: daily; Oct–Easter: Mon–Sat.* ● *24 Dec–3 Jan.* 💰 ♿ 📺 **www**.theyorkcompany.co.uk

Built by the York Merchants' Guild, which controlled the northern cloth trade in the 15th–17th centuries, this building has fine timberwork. The Great Hall is probably the best example of its kind in Europe. Among its paintings is an unattributed 17th-century copy of Van Dyck's portrait of Charles I's queen, Henrietta Maria. Below the Great Hall is the hospital, which was used by the guild until 1900, and a private chapel.

Exploring York

The appeal of York is its many layers of history. A medieval city constructed on top of a Roman one, it was first built in AD 71, when it became capital of the northern province and was known as Eboracum. It was here that Constantine the Great was made emperor in 306, and reorganized Britain into four provinces. A hundred years later, the Roman army had withdrawn. Eboracum was renamed Eoforwic, under the Saxons, and then became a Christian stronghold. The Danish street names are the reminder that it was a Viking centre from 867, and one of Europe's chief trading bases. Between 1100 and 1500 it was England's second city. The glory of York is the minster *(see pp406–7)*. The city also boasts 18 medieval churches, 3 mile long (4.8 km) medieval city walls, elegant Jacobean and Georgian architecture and fine museums.

The Middleham Jewel, Yorkshire Museum

🏛 York Castle Museum

The Eye of York. ***Tel*** *01904 687687.*
○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* ▨
♿ *ground floor only.* ☕ 🛍
www.yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk

Housed in two 18th-century prisons, the museum has a fine folk collection, started by Dr John Kirk of the market town of Pickering. Opened in 1938, its period displays include a Jacobean dining room, a moorland cottage, and a 1950s front room. It also contains an exhibition on the traditions of birth, marriages and death in Britain from 1700 to 2000.

The most famous exhibits include the reconstructed Victorian street of Kirkgate, complete with shopfronts, and the Anglo Saxon York Helmet, discovered in 1982.

⛪ York Minster

See pp406–7.

🏛 Jorvik

Coppergate. ***Tel*** *01904 543400.*
○ *daily (pre-booking advised).*
● *24–26 Dec.* ▨ ♿ *ring first.* 🛍
www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk

This centre is built on the site of the original Viking settlement which archaeologists uncovered at Coppergate. Using new technology, a dynamic vision of 10th-century York is recreated, with smells bringing the Viking world to life. At the centre's sister attraction, DIG, visitors can take part in an archaeological excavation.

🏛 Yorkshire Museum and St Mary's Abbey

Museum Gardens. ***Tel*** *01904 687687.* ○ *daily.* ▨ ♿ 🛍

Yorkshire Museum was in the news when it purchased the 15th-century Middleham Jewel for £2.5 million, one of the finest pieces of English Gothic jewellery found this century. Other exhibits include 2nd-century Roman mosaics and an Anglo-Saxon silver gilt bowl.

St Mary's Abbey *(see p350)* hosts the medieval York Mystery Plays every few years.

Grand staircase and fine plaster ceiling at Fairfax House

🏛 Fairfax House

Castlegate. ***Tel*** *01904 655543.*
○ *mid-Feb–Dec: daily (Sun: pm only).* ● *24–26 Dec, Jan, early Feb.* ▨ ✋ ♿ *limited.* 🛍
www.fairfaxhouse.co.uk

From 1755 to 1762 Viscount Fairfax built this fine Georgian town house for his daughter, Anne. The house was designed by John Carr *(see p28)*, and restored in the 1980s. Between 1920 and 1965 it was a cinema and dancehall. Today, visitors can see the bedroom of Anne Fairfax (1725–93), and a fine collection of 18th-century furniture, porcelain and clocks.

🏛 National Railway Museum

Leeman Rd. ***Tel*** *0844 815 3139.*
○ *daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.nrm.org.uk

In what is the world's largest railway museum, nearly 200 years of history are explored using a variety of visual aids. Visitors can try wheel-tapping and shunting in the interactive gallery, or find out what made Stephenson's *Rocket* so successful. Exhibits include uniforms, rolling stock from 1797 onward and Queen Victoria's Royal Train carriage, as well as the very latest rail innovations.

LIVERPOOL
MANCHESTER

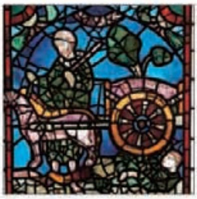
Reproduction of Stephenson's Rocket (right) and 1830s first-class carriage in York's National Railway Museum

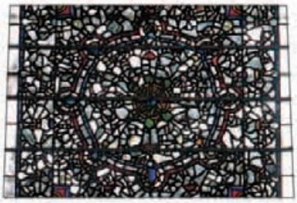
The Stained Glass of York Minster

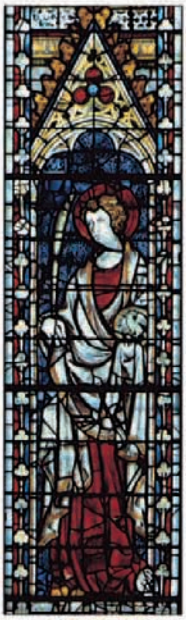
Window detail

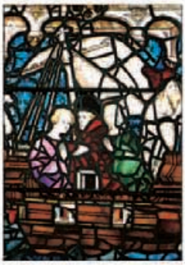
York Minster houses the largest collection of medieval stained glass in Britain, some of it dating from the late 12th century. The glass was generally coloured during production, using metal oxides to produce the desired colour, then worked on by craftsmen on site. When a design had been produced, the glass was first cut, then trimmed to shape. Details were painted on, using iron oxide-based paint which was fused to the glass by firing in a kiln. Individual pieces were then leaded together to form the finished window.

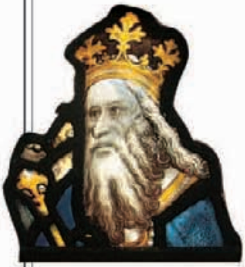
Part of the fascination of the minster glass is its variety of subject matter. Some windows were paid for by lay donors who specified a particular subject, others reflect ecclesiastical patronage.

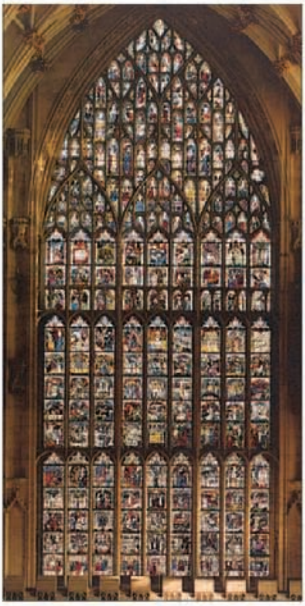

Miracle of St Nicholas *(late 12th century) was put in the nave over 100 years after it was made. It shows a Jew's conversion.*


The Five Sisters *in the north transept are the largest examples of* grisaille *glass in Britain. This popular 13th-century technique involved creating fine patterning on clear glass and decorating it with black enamel.*


St John the Evangelist, *in part of the Great West Window (c.1338), is holding an eagle, itself an example of stickwork, where paint is scraped off to reveal clear glass.*


Noah's Ark *with its distinct boat-like shape is easily identified in the Great East Window.*


Edward III *is a fine example of the 14th-century "soft" style of painting, achieved by stippling the paint.*


The Great East Window *(1405–8), the size of a tennis court, is the largest area of medieval painted glass in the world. The Dean and Chapter paid master glazier John Thornton four shillings a week for this celebration of the Creation.*

Walter Skirlaw, *whose bishopric was revoked in favour of Richard Scrope, donated this window on its completion in 1408.*

Harewood House ㉝

Leeds. ***Tel*** *0113 2181010.* 🚆 *Leeds then bus.* ○ *Apr–31 Oct: daily.* ✋ ♿ ⚑ *by arrangement.* ☕ 🛍
www.harewood.org

Designed by John Carr in 1759, Harewood House is the Yorkshire home of the Earl and Countess of Harewood.

The grand Palladian exterior is impressive, with interiors created by Robert Adam and an unrivalled collection of 18th-century furniture made specifically for Harewood by Yorkshire-born Thomas Chippendale (1711–79). There are paintings by Italian and English artists, including Reynolds and Gainsborough, and two watercolour rooms. The grounds by "Capability" Brown *(see p26)* include the **Harewood Bird Garden**, which has exotic species and a breeding programme of certain endangered varieties.

Bali starling, one of Harewood's rare birds

Leeds ㉞

Leeds. 👥 *750,000.* ✈ 🚆 🚌
ℹ *Leeds City Station (0113 2425242).* 🛒 *Mon–Sat.*
www.leedsliveitloveit.com

The third-largest of Britain's provincial cities, Leeds was at its most prosperous during the Victorian period. The most impressive legacy from this era is a series of ornate, covered shopping arcades. Also of note is the **Town Hall**, designed by Cuthbert Brodrick and opened by Queen Victoria in 1858.

Today, although Leeds is primarily an industrial city, it also offers a thriving cultural scene. Productions at **The Grand** by Opera North, one of Britain's top operatic companies, are of a high quality.

The **Leeds Art Gallery** has impressive collections of British 20th-century art and of Victorian paintings, including works by local artist Atkinson Grimshaw (1836–93). Among the late 19th-century French art are works by Signac, Courbet and Sisley. The Henry Moore Institute, added in 1993, is devoted to the research and display of sculpture of all periods. It comprises a study centre, library, galleries and an archive of material on Moore and other sculptural pioneers.

The **Armley Mills Museum**, in a 19th-century woollen mill, explores the industrial heritage of Leeds. Filled with original equipment, recorded sounds and models in 19th-century workers' clothes, it traces the history of the ready-to-wear industry. The **Leeds City Museum** charts the history of Leeds with ethnographical and archaeological exhibits.

A striking waterfront development by the River Aire has attracted two museums. The **Royal Armouries Museum**, from the Tower of London, tells the story of arms and armour around the world in battle, sport and fashion. The **Thackray Medical Museum** is an interactive display of medical advances, from a re-created Victorian slum to modern-day medical challenges.

For children, **Tropical World** features crystal pools, a rainforest house, butterflies and tropical fish. There is also a farm and a Rare Breeds centre in the grounds of the Tudor-Jacobean **Temple Newsam House**, which has major art and furniture collections.

The County Arcade, one of Leeds' restored shopping arcades

🏛 Leeds Art Gallery
The Headrow. ***Tel*** *0113 2478256.* ○ *daily (Sun: pm).* ● *pub hols.* 🛍 ♿ ☕

🏛 Armley Mills Museum
Canal Rd, Armley. ***Tel*** *0113 2637 861.* ○ *Tue–Sun (Sun: pm), pub hols.* ● *1 Jan, 25, 26 Dec.* ✋ ♿ 🛍

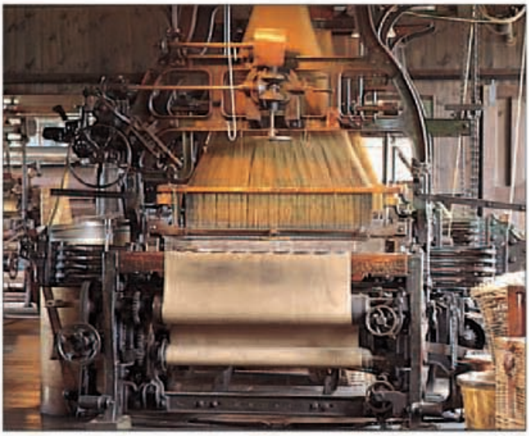
🏛 Leeds City Museum
Millennium Sq. ***Tel*** *0113 2243732.* ○ *Tue–Sun.* ● *pub hols.* ♿ ☕ 🛍

🏛 Royal Armouries
Armouries Drive. ***Tel*** *0113 2201999.* ○ *daily.* ● *24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🍴 🛍

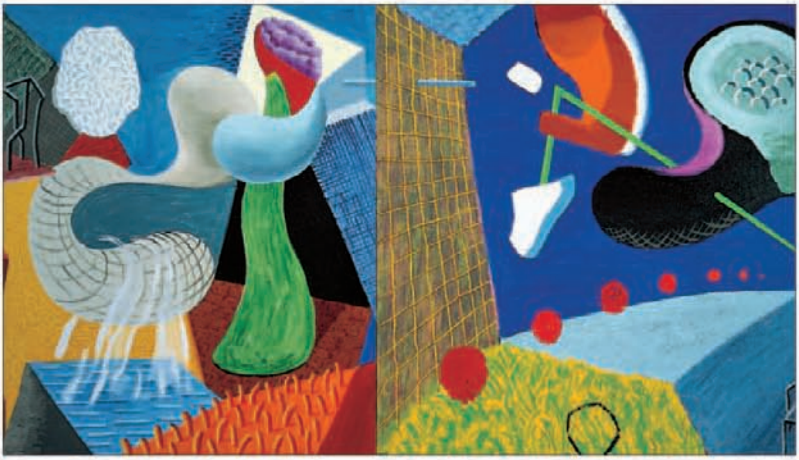
🏛 Thackray Medical Museum
Beckett St. ☎ℹ *0113 2444343.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26, 31 Dec.* ✋ ♿ 🛍 **www**.thackraymuseum.org

🍁 Tropical World
Canal Gdns, Princes Ave. ***Tel*** *0113 2145715.* ○ *daily.* ● *25, 26 Dec.* ✋ ♿ ☕ 🛍

🏠 Temple Newsam House
Off A63. ***Tel*** *0113 2645535.* ○ *Tue–Sun.* ● *25 & 26 Dec, Jan.* ✋ ☕ 🛍


Working loom at the Armley Mills Museum in Leeds

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp586–588 and pp638–640



The Other Side **(1990–93) by David Hockney at Bradford's 1853 Gallery in Saltaire**

Bradford ㉟

Bradford. 👥 *492,000.* ✈ 🚆 🚌
ℹ *City Hall, Centenary Square (01274 433678).* ⊖ *Mon–Sat.*
www.visitbradford.com

In the 16th century, Bradford was a thriving market town, and the opening of its canal in 1774 boosted trade. By 1850, it was the world's capital for worsted (fabric made from closely twisted wool). Many of the city's well-preserved civic and industrial buildings date from this period, such as the Wool Exchange on Market Street. In the 1800s a number of German textile manufacturers settled in what is now called Little Germany. Their houses are characterized by decorative stone carvings that illustrated the wealth and standing of the occupants.

The **National Media Museum**, founded in 1983, explores the technology and art of these media. There is a television section called TV Heaven, where visitors can ask to watch their favourite programme. They are also encouraged to see themselves read the news on TV. The giant IMAX screen uses the world's largest film format. Film subjects include journeys into space, the ocean and the natural world.

The **Cartwright Hall Art Gallery** displays 19th- and 20th-century British art and collections of contemporary art from South Asia. **Bradford Industrial Museum** is housed in an original spinning mill. As well as seeing and hearing all the mill machinery, you can ride on a horse-drawn tram. Saltaire, a Victorian industrial village *(see p349),* is on the outskirts of the city. Built by Sir Titus Salt for his Salts Mill workers, it was completed in 1873. The **1853 Gallery** has the world's largest collection of works by David Hockney, born in Bradford.

Daguerreotype camera by Giroux (1839)

🏛 National Media Museum
Pictureville. ***Tel*** *0870 7010200.*
○ *daily (school hols); Tue–Sun (school terms); public holidays.* ● *24–26 Dec.*
🛍 ♿ 🍴 **www**.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk

🏛 Cartwright Hall Art Gallery
Lister Park. ***Tel*** *01274 431212.*
○ *Tue–Sat.* ● *Good Fri, 25–26 Dec.* 🛍 🍴 ♿

🏛 Bradford Industrial Museum
Moorside Mills, Moorside Rd. ***Tel*** *01274 431212.* ○ *Tue–Sat, Sun (pm), public hols.* ● *Good Fri, 25–26 Dec.*
♿ 🛍 **www**.bradfordmuseums.org

🏛 1853 Gallery
Salts Mill, Victoria Rd. ***Tel*** *01274 531 163.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25–26 Dec.*
♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.saltsmill.org.uk

BRADFORD'S INDIAN COMMUNITY

Immigrants from the Indian subcontinent originally came to Bradford in the 1950s to work in the mills, but with the decline of the textile industry many began small businesses. By the mid-1970s there were 1,400 such enterprises in the area. Almost one fifth were in the food sector, born out of simple cafés catering for mill-workers whose families were far away. As Indian food became more popular, these restaurants thrived, and today there are over 200 serving the highly spiced dishes of the Indian subcontinent.

Balti in a Bradford restaurant

Haworth Parsonage, home to the Brontë family, now a museum

Haworth ㊱

Bradford. 👥 *5,000.* 🚆 *Keighley.*
ℹ *2–4 West Lane (01535 642329).*
www.visithaworth.com

The setting of Haworth, in bleak Pennine moorland dotted with farmsteads, has changed little since it was home to the Brontë family. The village boomed in the 1840s, when there were more than 1,200 hand-looms in operation, but it is more famous today for the Brontë connection.

You can visit the **Brontë Parsonage Museum**, home from 1820–61 to novelists Charlotte, Emily and Anne, their brother Branwell and their father, the Revd Patrick Brontë. Built in 1778–9, the house remains decorated as it was during the 1850s. Eleven rooms, including the children's study and Charlotte's room, display letters, manuscripts, furniture and personal objects.

The nostalgic Victorian **Keighley and Worth Valley Railway** runs through Haworth. It stops at Oakworth station, where parts of *The Railway Children* were filmed. At the end of the line is the Railway Museum at Oxenhope.

🏛 **Brontë Parsonage Museum**
Church St. ***Tel*** *01535 642323.*
○ *daily.* ● *24–27 Dec; Jan.* 🛍 ✋
♿ *limited.* **www**.bronte.org.uk

Charlotte Brontë's childhood story book, for her sister, Anne

Charlotte Brontë (1816–55)

THE BRONTË SISTERS

During a harsh, motherless childhood, Charlotte, Emily and Anne retreated into fictional worlds of their own, writing poems and stories. As adults, they had to work as governesses, but still published a poetry collection in 1846. Only two copies were sold, but in the following year Charlotte's *Jane Eyre*, became a bestseller, arousing interest in Emily's *Wuthering Heights* and Anne's *Agnes Grey*. After her siblings' deaths in 1848–9, Charlotte published her last novel, *Villette*, in 1852. She married the Revd Nicholls, her father's curate, in 1854, but died shortly afterwards.

Hebden Bridge ㊲

Calderdale. 👥 *12,500.* 🚆 ℹ
New Rd (01422 843831). ⛱ *Thu.*
www.hebdenbridge.co.uk

Hebden Bridge is a delightful South Pennines former mill town, surrounded by steep hills and former 19th-century mills. The houses seem to defy gravity as they cling to the valley sides. Due to the gradient, one house is made from two bottom floors, and the top two floors form another unit. To separate ownership of these "flying freeholds", an Act of Parliament was devised.

There is a superb view of Hebden Bridge from nearby **Heptonstall**, where the poet Sylvia Plath (1932–63) is buried. The village contains a Wesleyan chapel (1764).

Halifax ㊳

Calderdale. 👥 *88,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *Piece Hall (01422 368725).* ⛱
Thu–Sat. **www**.visitcalderdale.com

Halifax's history has been influenced by textiles since the Middle Ages, but today's visual reminders date mainly from the 19th century. The town inspired William Blake's vision of "dark Satanic mills" in his poem *Jerusalem* (1820). The wool trade helped to make the Pennines into Britain's industrial backbone.

Until the mid-15th century cloth production was modest, but vital enough to contribute towards the creation of the 13th-century Gibbet Law, which stated that anyone caught stealing cloth could be executed. There is a replica of the gibbet used for decapitation at the bottom of Gibbet Street. Many of Halifax's 18th- and 19th-century buildings owe their existence to wealthy cloth traders. Sir Charles Barry (1795–1860), architect of the Houses of Parliament, was commissioned by the Crossley family to design the Town Hall. They also paid for the landscaping of the People's Park by the creator of the Crystal Palace, Sir Joseph Paxton (1801–65). Thomas Bradley's

***Large Two Forms* (1966–9) by Henry Moore in Bretton Country Park**

18th-century **Piece Hall** was where wool merchants once sold their cloth, trading in one of the 315 "Merchants' Rooms". It has a beautifully restored Italianate courtyard where Halifax's market takes place.

Eureka! is a hands-on children's museum with exhibits such as the Giant Mouth Machine. **Shibden Hall Museum** is a fine period house, parts of which date to the 15th century.

Environs: The nearby village of **Sowerby Bridge** was an important textile centre from the Middle Ages to the 1960s. Today visitors come to enjoy the scenic canals.

🏛 Eureka!
Discovery Rd. ℡ *01422 330069.*
○ *Tue–Sun (daily in school hols).*
● *24–26 Dec.* 📷 ♿ ☕ **www.**eureka.org.uk

🏛 Shibden Hall Museum
Listers Rd. ***Tel*** *01422 352246.*
○ *daily (Sun: pm).* ● *24 Dec–2 Jan.* 🛍 📷 ☕

National Coal Mining Museum ㊴

Wakefield. ***Tel*** *01924 848806.* ⇌ *Wakefield then bus.* ○ *daily (last tour 3:15pm – booking advised). Children under 5 not allowed underground.*
● *24–26 Dec, 1 Jan.* ♿ 📷 ☕ 🛍
www.ncm.org.uk

Housed in the old Caphouse Colliery, this museum offers the chance to go into a real mine shaft: warm clothing is advised. An underground tour takes you 137 m (450 ft) down, equipped with a hat and a miner's lamp. Enter narrow seams and see exhibits such as life-size working models. Other displays depict mining from 1820 to the present day.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park ㊵

Wakefield. ***Tel*** *01924 832631.*
⇌ *Wakefield then bus.* ○ *daily.*
● *24, 25, 29–31 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.ysp.co.uk

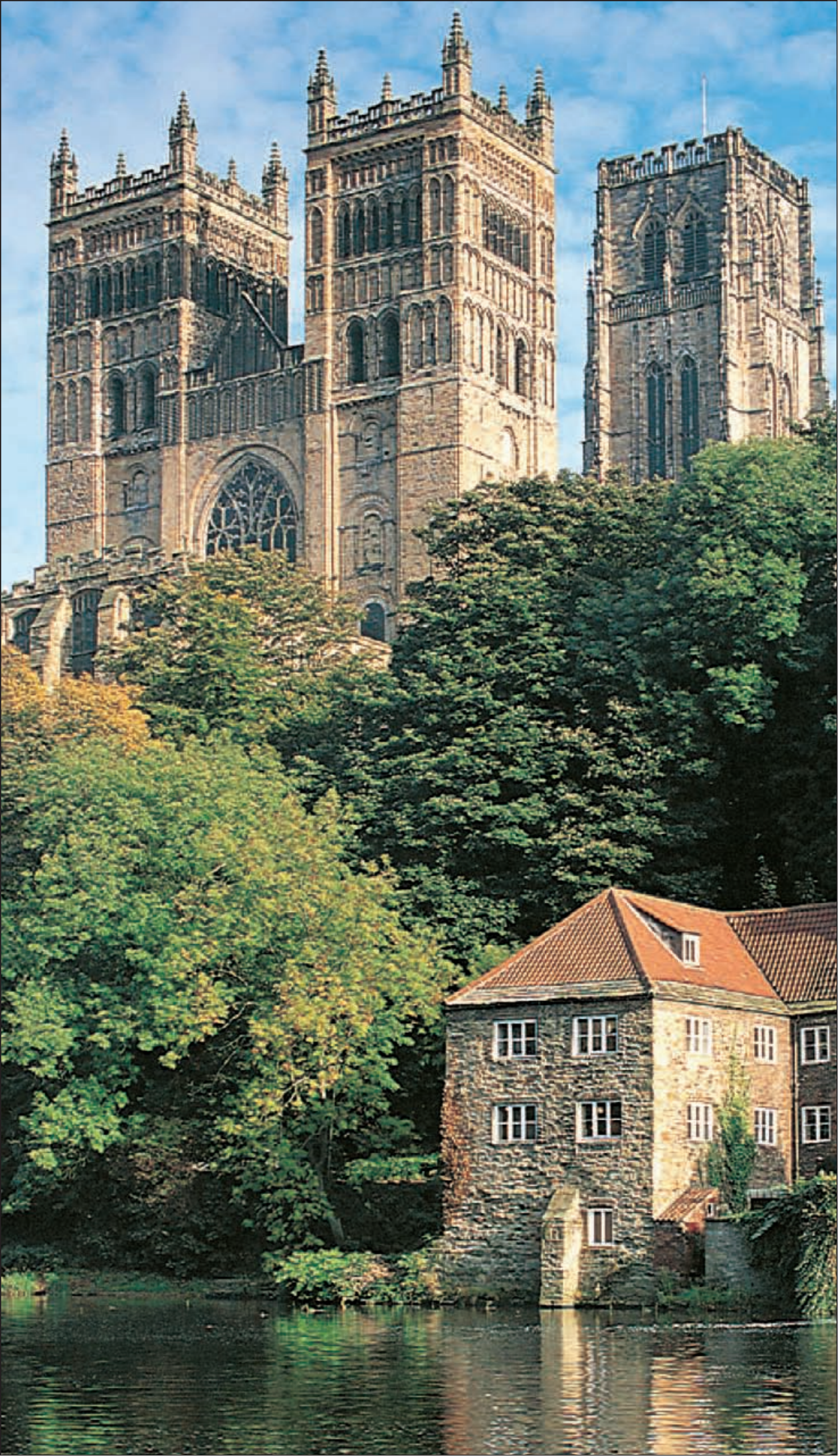
This is one of Europe's leading open-air galleries, situated in 200 ha (500 acres) of 18th-century parkland dotted with changing exhibitions of the work of Henry Moore, Anthony Caro, Eduardo Chillida, Barbara Hepworth, Antony Gormley and others. The indoor display spaces include the ambitious visitor centre, which leads on to the stunning Underground Gallery exhibition space.

Magna ㊶

Rotherham. ***Tel*** *01709 720002.*
⇌ *Rotherham Central or Sheffield then bus (No. 69).* ○ *Mar–Sep: daily; Oct–Feb: Tue–Sun.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 & 31 Dec.* 📷 ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍
www.visitmagna.co.uk

A former steel works has been imaginatively converted into a huge science adventure centre, with an emphasis on interactive exhibits, noise and spectacle designed to appeal to 4–15-year-olds. In the Air, Fire, Water and Earth Pavilions visitors can get close to a tornado, operate real diggers or discover what it's like to detonate a rock face. There are also multimedia displays on the lives of steelworkers and on how a giant furnace operated, as well as a show that features robots with artificial intelligence that evolve and learn as they hunt each other down.

The Face of Steel display at Magna



NORTHUMBRIA

NORTHUMBERLAND · COUNTY DURHAM

England's northeast extremity is a tapestry of moorland, ruins, castles, cathedrals and huddled villages. With Northumberland National Park and Kielder Water reservoir to the north, a rugged eastern coastline, and the cities of Newcastle and Durham to the south, the area combines a dramatic history with abundant natural beauty.

The empty peaceful hills, elusive wildlife and panoramic vistas of Northumberland National Park belie the area's turbulent past. Warring Scots and English, skirmishing tribes, cattle drovers and whisky smugglers have all left traces on ancient routes through the Cheviot Hills. Slicing through the southern edge of the park is the famous reminder of the Romans' 400-year occupation of Britain, Hadrian's Wall, the northern boundary of their empire.

Conflict between Scots and English continued for 1,000 years after the Romans departed, and even after the 1603 union between the two crowns. A chain of massive crenellated medieval castles punctuates the coastline, while other forts that once defended the northern flank of England along the River Tweed lie mostly in ruins. Seventh-century Northumbria was the cradle of Christianity under St Aidan, but this was sharply countered by Viking violence from 793 onward, as the Scandinavian invaders raided the monasteries. But a reverence for Northumbrian saints is in the local psyche, and St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede are both buried in Durham Cathedral. The influence of the Industrial Revolution, concentrated around the mouths of the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees, made Newcastle upon Tyne the north's main centre for coal mining and shipbuilding. Today, the city is famous for its "industrial heritage" attractions and urban regeneration schemes.

Section of Hadrian's Wall, built by the Romans in about 120, looking east from Cawfields

◁ **The towers of Durham Cathedral, rising above the River Wear**

Exploring Northumbria

Historic sites are plentiful along Northumbria's coast. South of Berwick-upon-Tweed, a causeway leads to the ruined priory and castle on Lindisfarne, and there are major castles at Bamburgh, Alnwick and Warkworth. The hinterland is a region of wide open spaces, with wilderness in the Northumberland National Park, and fascinating Roman remains of Hadrian's Wall at Housesteads and elsewhere. The glorious city of Durham is dominated by its castle and cathedral, and Newcastle upon Tyne has a lively nightlife.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

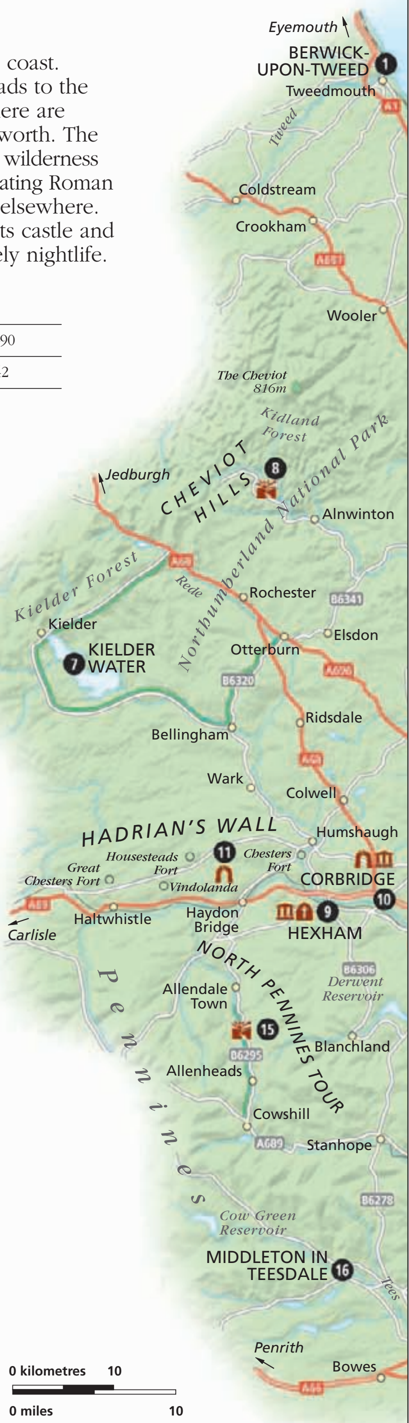
Alnwick Castle ⑤
Bamburgh ④
Barnard Castle ⑰
Beamish Open Air Museum ⑬
Berwick-upon-Tweed ①
Cheviot Hills ⑧
Corbridge ⑩
Durham pp428–9 ⑭
Farne Islands ③
Hadrian's Wall pp422–3 ⑪
Hexham ⑨
Kielder Water ⑦
Lindisfarne ②
Middleton-in-Teesdale ⑯
Newcastle upon Tyne ⑫
Warkworth Castle ⑥

Walks and Tours

North Pennines Tour ⑮

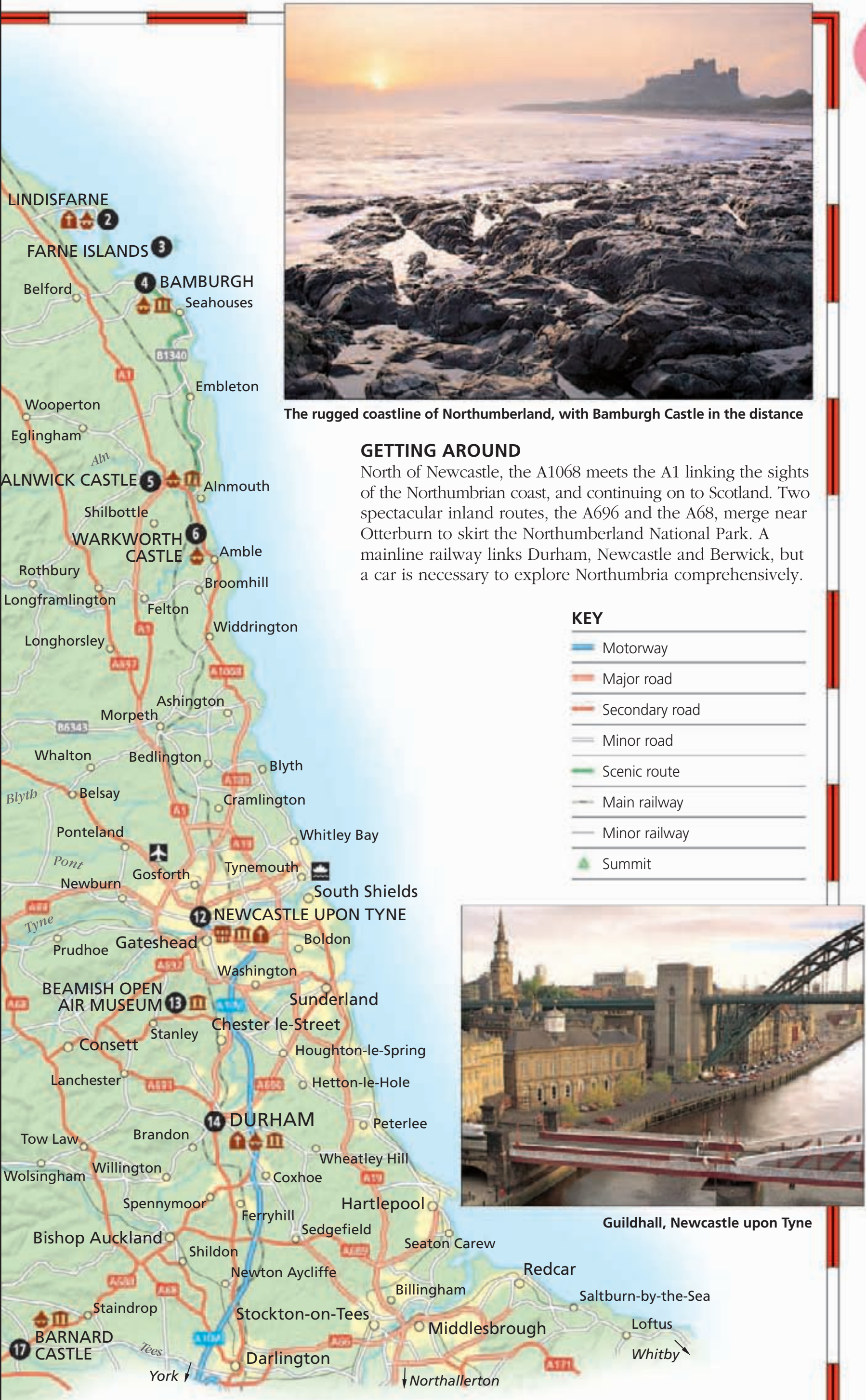
SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp588–90
- ***Where to Eat*** pp640–42


Eyemouth
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED ①
Tweedmouth
A1
Tweed
Coldstream
Crookham
A697
Wooler
The Cheviot 816m
Kidland Forest
Northumberland National Park
Jedburgh
CHEVIOT HILLS ⑧
Alnwinton
A68
Kielder Forest
Rede
Rochester
B6341
Kielder
Elsdon
KIELDER WATER ⑦
Otterburn
A696
B6320
Ridsdale
Bellingham
A68
Wark
Colwell
HADRIAN'S WALL
Humshaugh
Housesteads Fort
⑪
Chesters Fort
Great Chesters Fort
Vindolanda
CORBRIDGE ⑩
A69
Carlisle
Haltwhistle
Haydon Bridge
⑨
HEXHAM
NORTH PENNINES TOUR
B6306
Derwent Reservoir
Pennines
Allendale Town
⑮
Blanchland
B6295
Allenheads
Cowshill
A689
Stanhope
B6278
Cow Green Reservoir
MIDDLETON IN TEESDALE ⑯
Tees
Penrith
Bowes
A66
0 kilometres 10
0 miles 10

The wilderness of Upper Coquetdale in the sparsely populated Cheviot Hills

For additional map symbols *see back flap*


LINDISFARNE 2
FARNE ISLANDS 3
Belford
4 BAMBURGH
Seahouses
B1340
A1
Embleton
Wooperton
Eglingham
Aln
ALNWICK CASTLE 5
Alnmouth
Shilbottle
WARKWORTH CASTLE 6
Amble
Rothbury
Broomhill
Longframlington
Felton
A1
Widdrington
Longhorsley
A697
A1068
Ashington
Morpeth
B6343
Whalton
Bedlington
Blyth
A189
Blyth
Belsay
Cramlington
A1
Ponteland
Whitley Bay
A19
Pont
Tynemouth
Gosforth
Newburn
South Shields
A69
Tyne
12 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Prudhoe
Gateshead
Boldon
A692
Washington
BEAMISH OPEN AIR MUSEUM 13
A68
A1(M)
Sunderland
Chester le-Street
Stanley
Consett
Houghton-le-Spring
Lanchester
A691
A690
Hetton-le-Hole
14 DURHAM
Peterlee
Tow Law
Brandon
Wheatley Hill
Willington
Wolsingham
Coxhoe
A19
Spennymoor
Hartlepool
Ferryhill
Sedgefield
Bishop Auckland
A689
Seaton Carew
Shildon
Newton Aycliffe
Redcar
A688
A68
Billingham
Saltburn-by-the-Sea
Staindrop
Stockton-on-Tees
Middlesbrough
Loftus
BARNARD CASTLE 17
Tees
A1(M)
A66
Whitby
York
Darlington
A171
Northallerton

The rugged coastline of Northumberland, with Bamburgh Castle in the distance

GETTING AROUND

North of Newcastle, the A1068 meets the A1 linking the sights of the Northumbrian coast, and continuing on to Scotland. Two spectacular inland routes, the A696 and the A68, merge near Otterburn to skirt the Northumberland National Park. A mainline railway links Durham, Newcastle and Berwick, but a car is necessary to explore Northumbria comprehensively.

KEY

- Motorway
- Major road
- Secondary road
- Minor road
- Scenic route
- Main railway
- Minor railway
- ▲ Summit

Guildhall, Newcastle upon Tyne

View over Berwick-upon-Tweed's three bridges

Berwick-upon-Tweed ❶

Northumberland. 👥 *13,000.* 🚆 ℹ *106 Mary Gate (01289 330733).* ⛺ *Wed, Sat.* **www**.berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk

Between the 12th and 15th centuries Berwick-upon-Tweed changed hands 14 times in the wars between the Scots and English. Its position, at the mouth of the river which divides the two nations, made the town strategically vital.

The English finally gained permanent control in 1482 and maintained Berwick as a fortified garrison. Ramparts dating from 1555, 1.5 miles (2.5 km) long and 7 m (23 ft) thick, offer superb views over the Tweed. Within the 18th-century barracks are the **King's Own Scottish Borderers Regimental Museum**, an **art gallery**, and **By Beat of Drum**, charting the history of British infantrymen.

🏛 King's Own Scottish Borderers Regimental Museum
The Barracks. ***Tel*** *01289 307426.* ○ *Easter–Sep: Wed–Sun.* ● *public hols.* ♿ 🛍 **www**.kosb.co.uk/museum

Lindisfarne ❷

Northumberland. 🚆 *Berwick-upon-Tweed then bus.* ℹ *106 Mary Gate, Berwick-upon-Tweed (01289 330733).* **www**.lindisfarne.org.uk

Twice daily a long, narrow neck of land sinks under the North Sea tide for five hours, separating Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, from the coast. At low tide, visitors stream over the causeway to the island made famous by St Aidan, St Cuthbert and the Lindisfarne gospels. Nothing remains of the Celtic monks' monastery, finally abandoned in 875 after successive Viking attacks, but the magnificent arches of the 11th-century **Lindisfarne Priory** are still visible.

After 1540, stones from the priory were used to build **Lindisfarne Castle**, which was restored and made into a private home by Sir Edwin Lutyens *(see p29)* in 1903. It includes a walled garden by Gertrude Jekyll *(see p27)*.

⌂ Lindisfarne Castle
(NT) Holy Island. ***Tel*** *01289 389244.* **Castle** ○ *Mar–Oct & Feb half-term: Tue–Sun.* **Gardens** ○ *Tue–Sun all year. Opening times depend on tide – phone to check.* ♿

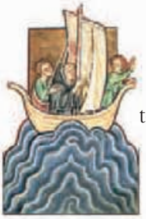
Farne Islands ❸

(NT) Northumberland. ⛴ *from Seahouses (Apr–Oct).* ℹ *106 Mary Gate, Berwick-upon-Tweed (01289 330733); Seahouses Shop (01665 721099).*

There are between 15 and 28 Farne Islands off the coast from Bamburgh, some of them periodically covered by sea. Nature wardens and lighthouse keepers share them with seals, puffins and other seabirds. Boat tours depart from **Seahouses** harbour and can land on Staple and Inner Farne, site of St Cuthbert's 14th-century chapel, or Longstone, where Grace Darling's lighthouse is located.

Lindisfarne Castle (1540), the main landmark on the island of Lindisfarne

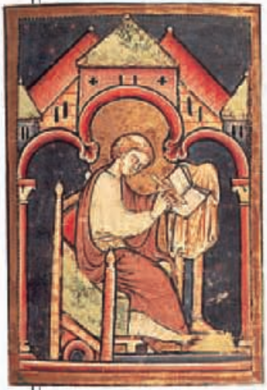
Celtic Christianity



St Cuthbert on a sea voyage

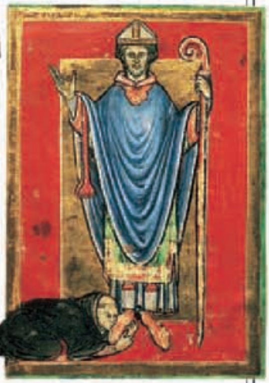
The Irish monk St Aidan arrived in Northumbria in 635 from the island of Iona, off western Scotland, to evangelize the north of England. He founded the monastery on the island of Lindisfarne, and it became one of the most important centres for Christianity in England. This and other monastic communities thrived in Northumbria, becoming rich in scholarship, although the monks lived simply. It also emerged as a place of pilgrimage after miracles were reported at the shrine of St Cuthbert, Lindisfarne's most famous bishop. But the monks' pacifism made them defenceless against 9th-century Viking raids.

St Aidan's Monastery *was added to over the centuries to become Lindisfarne Priory. This 8th-century relic with interlaced animal decorations is from a cross at the site.*

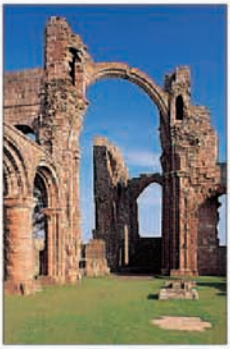


The Venerable Bede *(673–735), the most brilliant early medieval scholar, was a monk at the monastery of St Paul in Jarrow. He wrote* The Ecclesiastical History of the English People *in 731.*

St Aidan *(600–651), an Irish missionary, founded a monastery at Lindisfarne and became Bishop of Northumbria in 635. This 1960 sculpture of him, by Kathleen Parbury, is in Lindisfarne Priory grounds.*



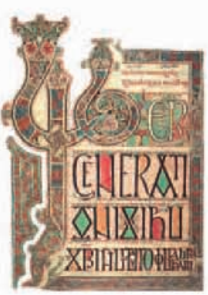
St Cuthbert *(635–87) was the monk and miracle worker most revered of all. He lived as a hermit on Inner Farne (a chapel was built there in his memory) and later became Bishop of Lindisfarne.*



Lindisfarne Priory *was built by Benedictines in the 11th century, on the site of St Aidan's earlier monastery.*

THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS

Held in the British Library, this book of richly illustrated portrayals of Gospel stories is one of the masterpieces of the "Northumbrian Renaissance" which left a permanent mark on Christian art and history-writing. The work was carried out by monks at Lindisfarne under the direction of Bishop Eadfrith, around 700. Monks managed to save the book and took it with them when they fled from Lindisfarne in 875 after suffering Viking raids. Other treasures were plundered.



Elaborately decorated initial to the *Gospel of St Matthew* (c.725)

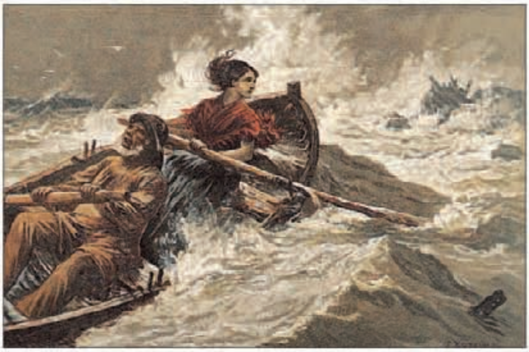


Illustration of Grace Darling from the 1881 edition of *Sunday at Home*

Bamburgh ❹

Northumberland. 👥 *1,100.* 🚆 *Berwick.* ℹ *Seahouses (01665 720884; Apr–Oct); 106 Mary Gate, Berwick-upon-Tweed (01289 330733).*

Due to Northumbria's history of hostility against the Scots, there are more strongholds and castles here than in any other part of England. Most were built from the 11th to the 15th centuries by local warlords, as was Bamburgh's red sandstone **castle**. Its coastal position had been fortified since prehistoric times, but the first major stronghold was built in 550 by a Saxon chieftain, Ida the Flamebearer.

In its heyday between 1095 and 1464, Bamburgh was the royal castle that was used by the Northumbrian kings for coronations. By the end of the Middle Ages it had fallen into obscurity, then in 1894 it was bought by Newcastle arms tycoon Lord Armstrong, who restored it. Works of art are exhibited in the cavernous Great Hall, and there are suits of armour and medieval artifacts in the basement.

Bamburgh's other main attraction is the tiny **Grace Darling Museum** which celebrates the bravery of the 23-year-old, who, in 1838, rowed through tempestuous seas with her father, the keeper of the Longstone lighthouse, to rescue nine people from the wrecked *Forfarshire* steamboat.

Carrara marble fireplace (1840) at Alnwick Castle

🏰 **Bamburgh Castle**
Bamburgh. ***Tel*** *01668 214515.*
○ *mid-Jan–mid-Dec: daily.* ⊘ ♿
☕ 🛍 **www**.bamburghcastle.com

🏛 **Grace Darling Museum**
Radcliffe Rd. ○ *Easter–Oct: daily; Oct–Easter: Tue–Sun.* ♿

Alnwick Castle ❺

Alnwick, Northumberland. ***Tel*** *01665 510777.* 🚆 🚌 *Alnmouth.* ○ *April–Oct: daily.* ⊘ ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.alnwickcastle.com

Dominating the market town on the River Aln is another great fortress, Alnwick Castle. Described by the Victorians as the "Windsor of the north", it is the main seat of the Duke of Northumberland, whose family, the Percys, have lived here since 1309. This border strong-hold has survived many battles, but now peacefully dominates the pretty market town of Alnwick, overlooking landscape designed by "Capability" Brown. The stern medieval exterior belies the treasure house within, furnished in palatial Renaissance style with a collection of Meissen china and paintings by Titian, Van Dyck and Canaletto. The Postern Tower contains early British and Roman relics. The **Regimental Museum of Royal Northumberland Fusiliers** is in the Abbot's Tower. Other attractions are the Percy State coach and the dungeon.

Warkworth Castle ❻

(EH) Warkworth, nr Amble. ***Tel*** *01665 711423.* 🚆 🚌 *518 from Newcastle.* ○ *Nov–Mar: Sat–Mon; Apr–Oct: daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* 🛍 ⊘ ♿ *limited.*

Warkworth Castle sits on a green hill overlooking the River Coquet. It was one of the Percy family homes. Shakespeare's *Henry IV* features the castle in the scenes between the Earl of Northumberland and his son, Harry Hotspur. Much of the present-day castle remains date from the 14th century. The unusual turreted, cross-shaped keep is a central feature of the castle tour.

Warkworth Castle reflected in the River Coquet

Kielder Water ❼

Northumberland. ℹ *Tower Knowe Visitor Centre, Falstone (0845 1550236).* ○ *daily.* ♿ **www**.visitkielder.com

One of the top attractions of Northumberland, Kielder Water lies close to the Scottish border, surrounded by spectacular scenery. With a perimeter of 27 miles (44 km), it is Europe's largest man-made lake, and offers facilities for sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, water-skiing and fishing. In summer, the cruiser *Osprey* departs from Leaplish on trips around the lake. The Kielder Water Exhibition, at the Visitor Centre, depicts the history of the valley from the Ice Age to the present day.

Cheviot Hills ⑧

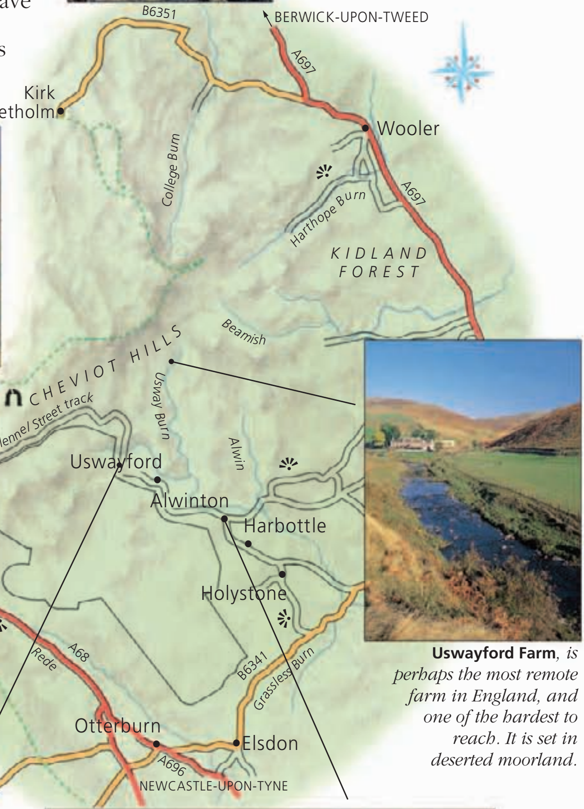
These bare, lonely moors, smoothed into rounded humps by Ice Age glaciers, form a natural border with Scotland. Walkers and outdoor enthusiasts find a near-wilderness unmatched anywhere else in England. This remotest extremity of the Northumberland National Park nevertheless has a long and vivid history. Roman legions, warring Scots and English border raiders, cattle drovers and whisky smugglers have all left traces along the ancient routes and tracks they carved out here.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Northumberland. 🚉 *Hexham.* ℹ *Wooler (01668 282123), Eastburn, South Park.* ***Tel*** *01434 605555.*

The Cheviots' *isolated burns and streams are among the last habitats in England for the shy, elusive otter.*

Chew Green Camp, *which to the Romans was* ad fines, *or, "towards the last place", has fine views from the remaining fortified earthworks.*


B6351
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED
A697
Kirk Yetholm
Wooler
College Burn
Harthope Burn
A697
KIDLAND FOREST
Beamish
CHEVIOT HILLS
Clennel Street track
Usway Burn
Alwin
Uswayford
Alwinton
Harbottle
Byrness
Holystone
Rede
A68
B6341
Grassless Burn
Otterburn
Elsdon
A696
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

The Pennine Way *starts in Derbyshire and ends at Kirk Yetholm in Scotland. The final stage (shown here) goes past Byrness, crosses the Cheviots and traces the Scottish border.*

Uswayford Farm track

Uswayford Farm, *is perhaps the most remote farm in England, and one of the hardest to reach. It is set in deserted moorland.*

KEY

- 🟥 A roads
- 🟨 B roads
- ═ Minor roads
- ┅ Pennine Way
- ✲ Viewpoint

Alwinton, *a tiny village built mainly from grey stone, is situated beside the River Coquet. It is an access point for many fine walks in the area, and the wild landscape is deserted except for sheep.*

0 kilometres 5

0 miles 5

Hexham ⑨

Northumberland. 👥 *14,000.* 🚆
🚌 ℹ *Wentworth Car Park (01434 652220).* ⛺ *Tue.*
www.visitnortheastengland.com

The busy market town of Hexham was established in the 7th century, growing up around the church and monastery built by St Wilfrid, but the Vikings sacked and looted it in 876. In 1114, Augustinians began work on a priory and abbey on the original church ruins to create **Hexham Abbey**, which still towers over the market square. The Saxon crypt, built partly with stones from the former Roman fort at Corbridge, is all that remains of St Wilfrid's Church. The south transept has a 12th-century night stair: stone steps leading from the dormitory. In the chancel is the Frith Stool, a Saxon throne in the centre of a circle which protected fugitives.

Medieval streets, many with Georgian and Victorian shopfronts, spread out from the market square, The 15th-century Moot Hall was once a council chamber and the old gaol (jail) contains a **museum** of border history.

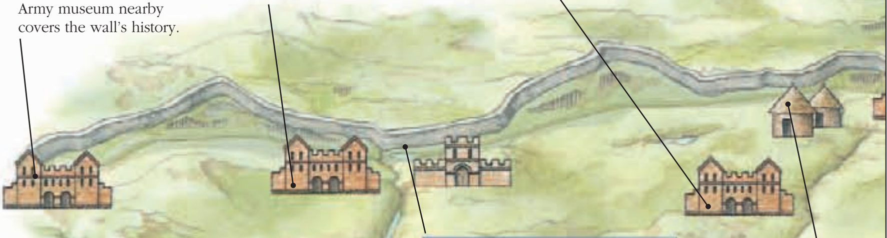
Ancient stone carvings at Hexham Abbey

Hadrian's Wall ⑪

Location of Hadrian's Wall

On the orders of Emperor Hadrian, work began in AD 120 on a 73-mile (117-km) wall to be erected across northern England, to mark and defend the northern limits of the British province and the northwest border of the Roman Empire. Troops were stationed at milecastles along the wall, and large turrets, later forts, were built at 5-mile (8-km) intervals. The wall was abandoned in 383 as the Empire crumbled, but much of it remains. In 1987 it was declared a World Heritage Site.

Vindolanda *is the site of several forts. The first timber fort dated from AD 90 and a stone fort was not built until the 2nd century. The museum has a collection of Roman writing tablets providing details of food, clothes and work.*


Carvoran Fort is probably pre-Hadrianic. Little of the fort survives, but the Roman Army museum nearby covers the wall's history.

Great Chesters Fort was built facing east to guard Caw Gap, but there are few remains today. To the south and east of the fort are traces of a civil settlement and a bathhouse.

Housesteads Settlement includes the remains of terraced shops or taverns.

Cawfields, *2 miles (3 km) north of Haltwhistle, is the access point to one of the highest and most rugged sections of the wall. To the east, the remains of a milecastle sit on Whin Sill crag.*

IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANVS AVG
Emperor Hadrian *(76–138) came to Britain in 120 to order a stronger defence system. Coins were often cast to record emperors' visits, such as this bronze* sestertius. *Until 1971, the penny was abbreviated to* d, *short for* denarius, *a Roman coin.*

Hexham Abbey
Market Place. ***Tel*** *01434 602031.*
○ *9:30am–5pm daily.* ♿ ☕ 🛍

Border History Museum
Old Gaol, nr Hallgate. ***Tel*** *01434 652349.* ○ *Feb–Oct: daily; Nov: Mon, Tue, Sat.* ♿ 🛍

Corbridge ⑩

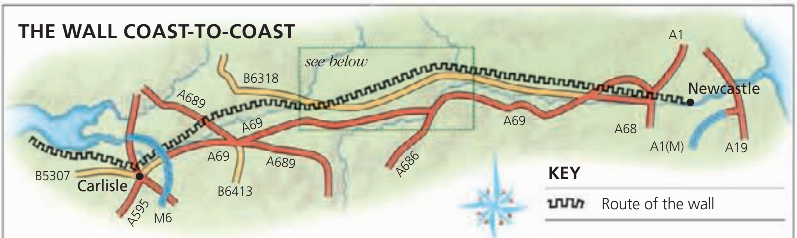
Northumberland. *4,000.*
ℹ *Hill St (01434 632815).*

This quiet town conceals a few historic buildings constructed with stones from the Roman garrison town of nearby Corstopitum. Among these are the thickset Saxon tower of St Andrew's Church and the 14th-century fortified tower house built to protect the local clergyman. Excavations of Corstopitum, now known as **Corbridge Roman Site and Museum**, have exposed earlier forts, a well-preserved granary, temples, fountains and an aqueduct.

The parson's 14th-century fortified tower house at Corbridge

Corbridge Roman Site and Museum
(EH) ***Tel*** *01434 632349.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily; Nov–Mar: Sat & Sun.* ● *24–26 Dec, 1 Jan.* ♿ *limited.* 🛍

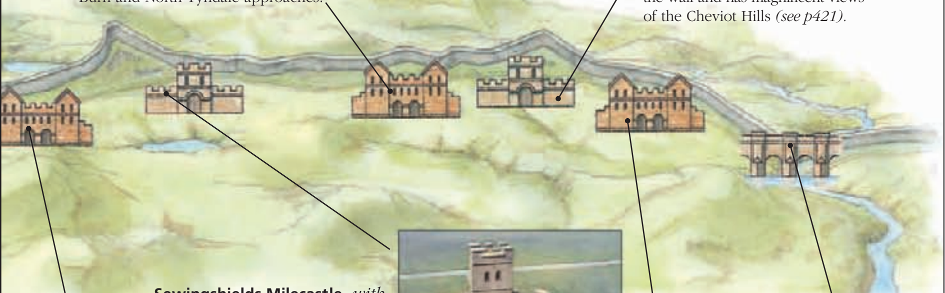
THE WALL COAST-TO-COAST

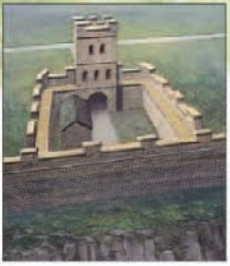


The wall runs eastward from Bowness on the Solway Firth to the mouth of the Tyne at Wallsend. The B6318 and A69 provide access to major sites.

Carrawburgh Fort, a 500-man garrison, guarded the Newbrough Burn and North Tyndale approaches.

Limestone Corner Milecastle is sited at the northernmost part of the wall and has magnificent views of the Cheviot Hills *(see p421).*





Sewingshields Milecastle, *with magnificent views west to Housesteads, is one of the best places for walking. This reconstruction shows the layout of a Roman milecastle on the wall.*

Chesters Fort was a bridgehead over the North Tyne. In the museum are altars, sculptures and inscriptions.

Chesters Bridge crossed the Tyne. The original Hadrianic bridge was rebuilt in 207. The remains of this second bridge abutment can still be seen.

Housesteads Fort *is the best-preserved site on the wall, with fine views over the countryside. The excavated remains include the commanding officer's house and a Roman hospital.*

0 metres 500
0 yards 500

Newcastle upon Tyne ⓬

👥 *273,000.* ✈ 🚆 🚌 ⛴ ℹ *Quayside (0191 2778000).* 🛒 *Sun.*
www.newcastlegateshead.com

Newcastle owes its name to its Norman **castle** which was founded in 1080 by Robert Curthose, the eldest son of William the Conqueror *(see p47)*. The Romans had bridged the Tyne and built a fort on the site 1,000 years earlier. During the Middle Ages it was used as a base for English campaigns against the Scots. From the Middle Ages, the city flourished as a coal mining and exporting centre. It was known in the 19th century for engineering, steel production and later as the world's foremost shipyard. The city's industrial base has recently declined, but "Geordies", as inhabitants of the city are known, have refocused their civic pride on the ultra-modern Metro Centre shopping mall at Gateshead, southwest of the city, and Newcastle United soccer team.

The city's lively night scene includes clubs, pubs and ethnic restaurants. The visible trappings of its past are reflected in the magnificent **Tyne Bridge** and in **Earl Grey's Monument**, as well as the grand façades in the city centre thoroughfares, such as Grey Street. On the quayside there are some dramatic new features, notably **Baltic**, the contemporary art centre, **The Sage Gateshead**, the international centre for music, and the tilting **Gateshead Millennium Bridge**.

Bridges crossing the Tyne at Newcastle

⛫ The Castle

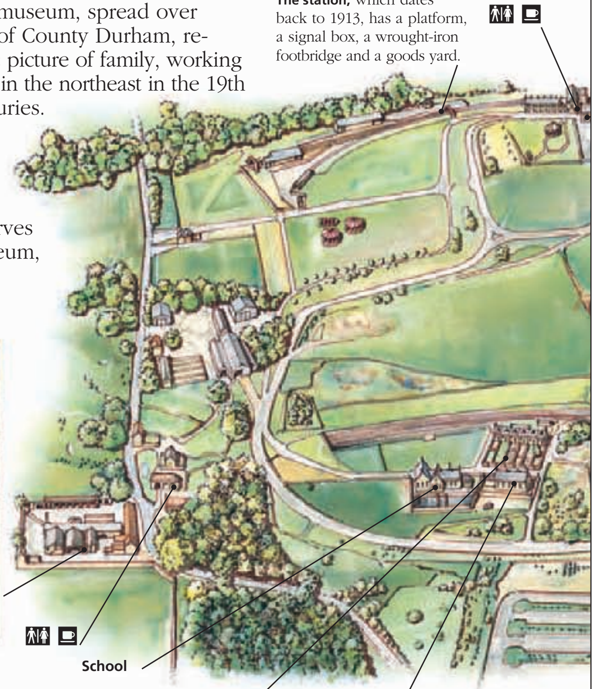
St Nicholas St. ***Tel*** *0191 232 7938.* ○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, Good Fri, 24–26 Dec.* 🎟 🛍
Curthose's original wooden "new castle" was rebuilt in stone in the 12th century. Only

Beamish, The North of England Open Air Museum ⓭

Tram symbol

This giant open air museum, spread over 120 ha (300 acres) of County Durham, recreates an authentic picture of family, working and community life in the northeast in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It has a 1913 Town Street, colliery village with drift mine, working farm and railway station. A tramway serves the different parts of the museum, which carefully avoids romanticizing the past.

Home Farm *recreates the atmosphere of an old-fashioned farm. Rare breeds of cattle and sheep, more common before the advent of mass breeding, can be seen.*



The station, which dates back to 1913, has a platform, a signal box, a wrought-iron footbridge and a goods yard.

School

Miners' houses were tiny, oil-lit dwellings, backing onto vegetable gardens and owned by the colliery.

Chapel

the thickset, crenellated keep remains intact with two suites of royal apartments. A series of staircases spiral up to the renovated battlements, from which there are fine views over the city and the Tyne.

St Nicholas Cathedral

St Nicholas Sq. ***Tel*** *0191 2321939.*
○ *daily.* ♿

This is one of Britain's tiniest cathedrals. There are remnants inside of the original 11th-century Norman church on which the present 14th- and 15th-century structure was founded. Its most striking feature is its ornate "lantern tower" – half tower, half spire – of which there are only three others in Britain.

Bessie Surtees' House

(EH) 41–44 Sandhill. ***Tel*** *0191 2691200.* ○ *Mon–Fri.* ● *24 Dec–7 Jan, public hols.* ♿ *limited.* 🛍

The story of beautiful, wealthy Bessie, who lived here before eloping with penniless John Scott, later Lord Chancellor of England, is the romantic tale behind these half-timbered 16th- and 17th-century houses. The window through which Bessie escaped now has a blue glass pane.

Reredos of the Northumbrian saints in St Nicholas Cathedral

Tyne Bridge

Newcastle–Gateshead.
○ *daily.* ♿

Opened in 1928, this steel arch was the longest of its type in Britain with a span of 162 m (531 ft). Designed by Mott, Hay and Anderson, it soon became the city's most potent symbol.

Earl Grey's Monument

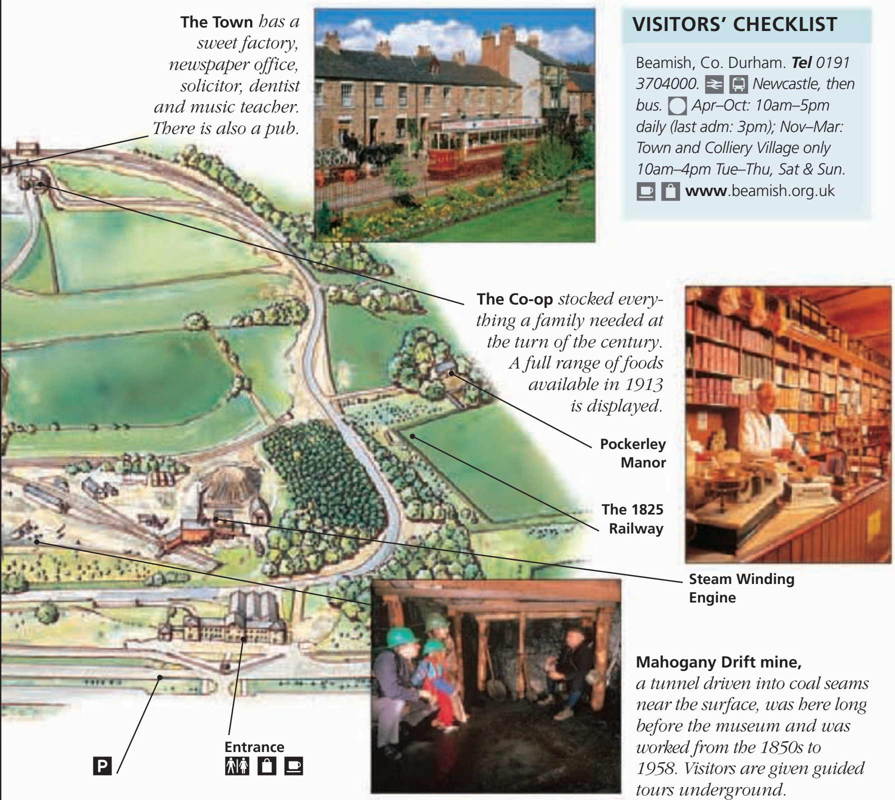
Grey St.

Benjamin Green created this memorial to the 2nd Earl Grey, Liberal Prime Minister from 1830 to 1834.

Baltic

The Centre for Contemporary Art Gateshead. ***Tel*** *0191 478 1810.* ○ *daily.* 🛍 🍴 ☕ **www**.balticmill.com

This former grain warehouse has been converted by architect Dominic Williams into a major international centre for contemporary art, one of the biggest in Europe, with amazing views of Tyneside from its rooftop restaurant.



The Town *has a sweet factory, newspaper office, solicitor, dentist and music teacher. There is also a pub.*

The Co-op *stocked everything a family needed at the turn of the century. A full range of foods available in 1913 is displayed.*

Pockerley Manor

The 1825 Railway

Steam Winding Engine

Mahogany Drift mine, *a tunnel driven into coal seams near the surface, was here long before the museum and was worked from the 1850s to 1958. Visitors are given guided tours underground.*

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Beamish, Co. Durham. ***Tel*** *0191 3704000.* 🚆 🚌 *Newcastle, then bus.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 10am–5pm daily (last adm: 3pm); Nov–Mar: Town and Colliery Village only 10am–4pm Tue–Thu, Sat & Sun.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.beamish.org.uk

Houses built by the London Lead Company in Middleton-in-Teesdale

Durham ⑭

See pp428–9.

North Pennines Tour ⑮

See p427.

Cotherstone cheese, a speciality of the Middleton-in-Teesdale area

Middleton-in-Teesdale ⑯

Co. Durham. 👥 *1,100.*
🚆 *Darlington.* ℹ *10 Market Place (01833 641001).*

Clinging to a hillside amid wild Pennine scenery on the River Tees is this old lead mining town. Many of its rows of grey stone cottages were built by the London Lead Company, a paternalistic, Quaker-run organization who influenced every corner of its employees' daily lives.

The company began mining in 1753, and soon it virtually owned the town. Workers were expected to observe strict temperance, send their children to Sunday school and conform to the many company maxims. Today, mining has all but ceased in Teesdale, with Middleton standing as a monument to the 18th-century idea of the "company town". The offices of the London Lead Company can still be seen, as well as Nonconformist chapels from the era and a memorial fountain made of iron.

The crumbly Cotherstone cow's milk cheese, a speciality of the surrounding dales, is available in the shops.

Barnard Castle ⑰

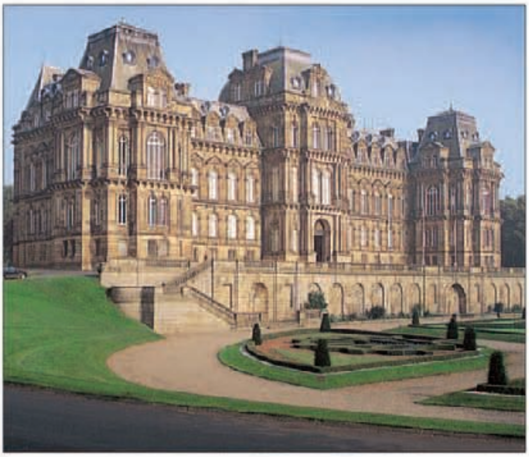
County Durham. 👥 *5,000.*
🚆 *Darlington.* ℹ *Woodleigh, Flatts Rd (01833 696356).* ⛺ *Wed.*
www.teesdalediscovery.com

Barnard Castle, known in the area as "Barney", is a little town full of character, with old shopfronts and a cobbled market overlooked by the ruins of the Norman castle from which it takes its name. The original Barnard Castle was built around 1125–40 by Bernard Balliol, ancestor of the founder of Balliol College, Oxford *(see p222).* Later, the market town grew up around the fortification.

Today, Barnard Castle is known for the extraordinary French-style château to the east of the town, surrounded by acres of formal gardens. Started in 1860 by the local aristocrat John Bowes and his French wife Josephine, an artist and actress, it was never a private residence, but always intended as a museum and public monument. The château finally opened in 1892, by which time the couple were both dead. Nevertheless, the **Bowes Museum** stands as a monument to his wealth and her extravagance.

The museum houses a strong collection of Spanish art which includes El Greco's *The Tears of St Peter,* dating from the 1580s, and Goya's *Don Juan Meléndez Váldez*, painted in 1797. Clocks, porcelain, furniture, musical instruments, toys and tapestries are among its treasures.

🏛 Bowes Museum
Barnard Castle. ***Tel*** *01833 690606.*
○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* 🚫 ♿ 🎧 *(summer).* ☕ 🛍
www.bowesmuseum.org.uk



The Bowes Museum, a French-style château near Barnard Castle

North Pennines Tour ⑮

Starting just to the south of Hadrian's Wall, this tour explores the South Tyne Valley, and Upper Weardale. It crosses one of England's wildest and most remote tracts of moorland, then heads north again. The high ground is mainly blanketed with heather, dotted with sheep or criss-crossed with dry-stone walls, a feature of this region. Harriers and other birds hover above, and streams tumble into valleys of tightly huddled villages.

Celts, Romans and other settlers have left imprints on the North Pennines. The wealth of the area was based on lead mining and stone quarrying which has long co-existed with farming.

Sheep grazing on the moors

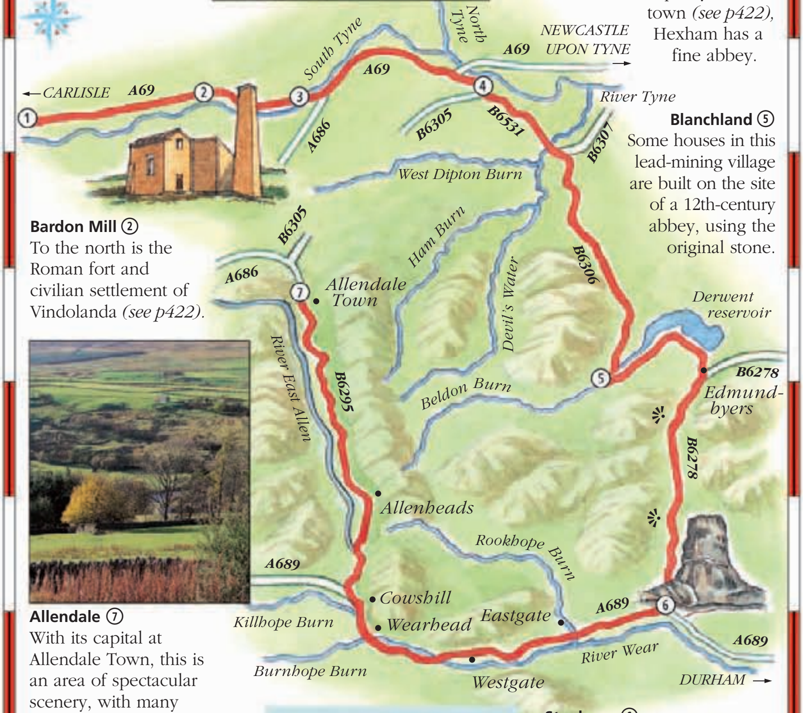
Haltwhistle ①
In the Church of the Holy Cross is the tombstone of John Ridley, brother of Protestant martyr, Nicholas Ridley, burnt at the stake in 1555 *(see p222)*.

Haydon Bridge ③
There are some delightful walks near this spa town where the painter John Martin was born in 1789. Nearby Langley Castle is worth a visit.

Hexham ④
A pretty old town *(see p422)*, Hexham has a fine abbey.

Blanchland ⑤
Some houses in this lead-mining village are built on the site of a 12th-century abbey, using the original stone.

Bardon Mill ②
To the north is the Roman fort and civilian settlement of Vindolanda *(see p422)*.


North Tyne
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
A69
South Tyne
A69
CARLISLE
A69
①
②
③
④
River Tyne
A686
B6305
B6531
B6307
West Dipton Burn
Ham Burn
B6305
B6306
A686
⑦
Allendale Town
Devil's Water
Derwent reservoir
River East Allen
B6295
Beldon Burn
⑤
B6278
Edmundbyers
B6278
Allenheads
Rookhope Burn
A689
Cowshill
Wearhead
Eastgate
A689
⑥
Killhope Burn
A689
River Wear
Burnhope Burn
Westgate
DURHAM

Allendale ⑦
With its capital at Allendale Town, this is an area of spectacular scenery, with many walking and trout fishing opportunities.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Length: *50 miles (80 km)*
Stopping-off points: *Several pubs in Stanhope serve bar meals, and the Durham Dales Centre provides teas all year round. Horsley Hall Hotel at Eastgate serves meals all day.* (See also pp684–5.)

KEY

🟥	Tour route
🟩	Other roads
✺	Viewpoint

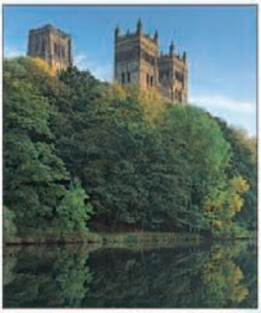
Stanhope ⑥
An 18th-century castle overlooks the market square. The giant stump of a fossilized tree, said to be 250 million years old, guards the graveyard.

0 kilometres 5
0 miles 5

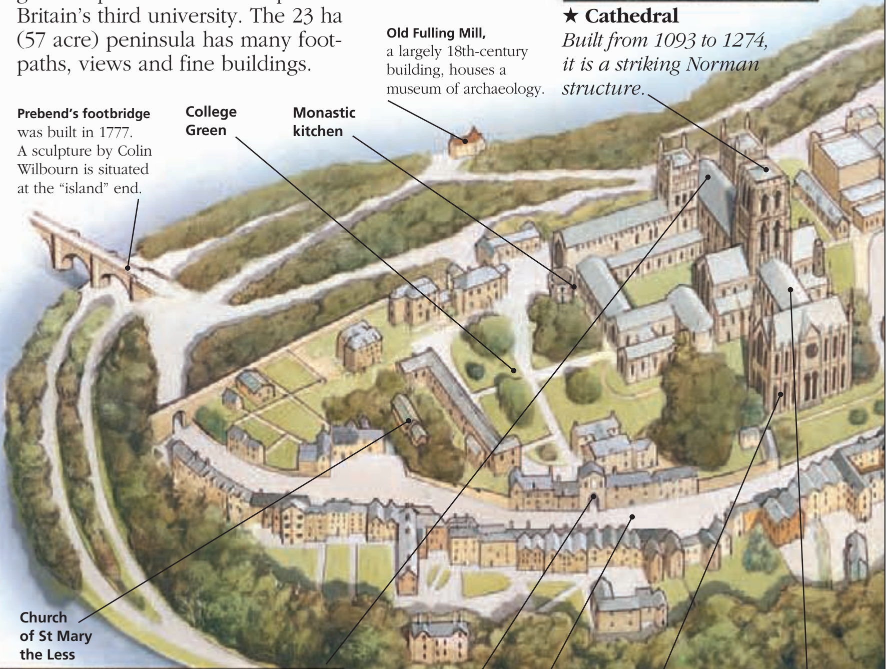
Durham ⑭

Cathedral Sanctuary knocker

The city of Durham was built on Island Hill or "Dunholm" in 995. This rocky peninsula, which defies the course of the River Wear's route to the sea, was chosen as the last resting place for the remains of St Cuthbert. The relics of the Venerable Bede were brought to the site 27 years later, adding to its attraction for pilgrims. Durham Cathedral was treated by architects as an experiment for geometric patterning, while the Castle served as the Episcopal Palace until 1832, when Bishop William van Mildert gave it up and surrendered part of his income to found Britain's third university. The 23 ha (57 acre) peninsula has many footpaths, views and fine buildings.



★ Cathedral
Built from 1093 to 1274, it is a striking Norman structure.



Old Fulling Mill, a largely 18th-century building, houses a museum of archaeology.

Prebend's footbridge was built in 1777. A sculpture by Colin Wilbourn is situated at the "island" end.

College Green

Monastic kitchen

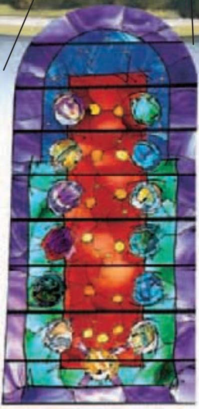
Church of St Mary the Less

College gatehouse

South Bailey

St Cuthbert's Tomb

Galilee Chapel
Architects began work on the exotic Galilee Chapel in 1170, drawing inspiration from the Great Mosque of Cordoba in Andalusia. It was altered by Bishop Langley (d.1437) whose tomb is by the west door.



"Our Daily Bread" Window
This modern stained-glass window in the north nave aisle was donated in 1984 by a local department store.

STAR SIGHTS

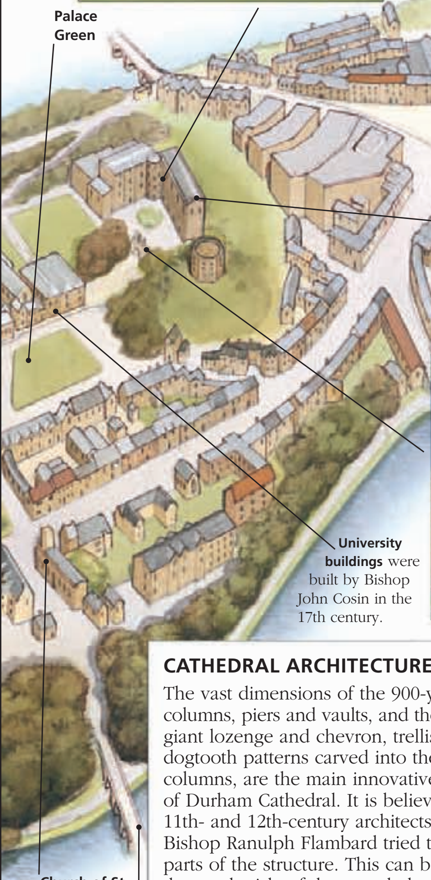
- ★ Cathedral
- ★ Castle

★ Castle

Begun in 1072, the castle is a fine Norman fortress. The keep, sited on a mound, is now part of the university.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Co.Durham. 🚆 *Station Approach.* ℹ *Millennium Pl (0191 384 3720).* **Cathedral.** ***Tel*** *0191 386 4266.* ○ *9:30am–6:15pm daily (12:45–5:30pm Sun, 9:30am–8pm Jul & Aug).* ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🔒 **Castle.** ***Tel*** *0191 334 3800.* ○ *univ hols: daily; term: daily (pm only).* ✋ *mandatory.*



Town Hall (1851)

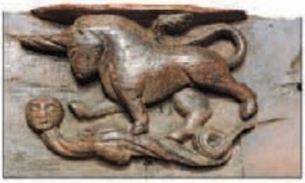
St Nicholas' Church (1857)

Palace Green

University buildings were built by Bishop John Cosin in the 17th century.

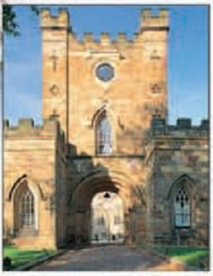
Church of St Mary le Bow

Kingsgate Footbridge, built from 1962–3, leads to North Bailey.



Tunstal's Chapel

Situated at the end of the Tunstal's Gallery, the castle chapel was built c.1542. Its fine woodwork includes this unicorn misericord (see p341).



Castle Gatehouse

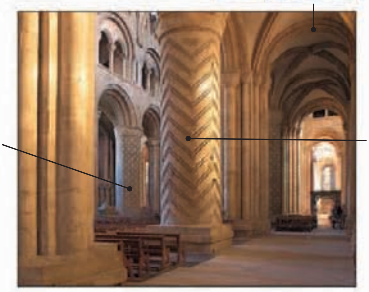
Traces of Norman stonework can be seen in the outer arch, while the sturdy walls and upper floors are 18th century, rebuilt in a style dubbed "gothick" by detractors.

CATHEDRAL ARCHITECTURE

The vast dimensions of the 900-year-old columns, piers and vaults, and the inventive giant lozenge and chevron, trellis and dogtooth patterns carved into the stone columns, are the main innovative features of Durham Cathedral. It is believed that 11th- and 12th-century architects such as Bishop Ranulph Flambard tried to unify all parts of the structure. This can be seen in the south aisle of the nave below.

Ribbed vaults, *criss-crossing above the nave, are now common in church ceilings. One of the major achievements of Gothic architecture, they were first built at Durham.*

The lozenge *shape is a pattern from prehistoric carving, but never before seen in a cathedral.*



Chevron patterns *on some of the piers in the nave are evidence of Moorish influence.*

BH11

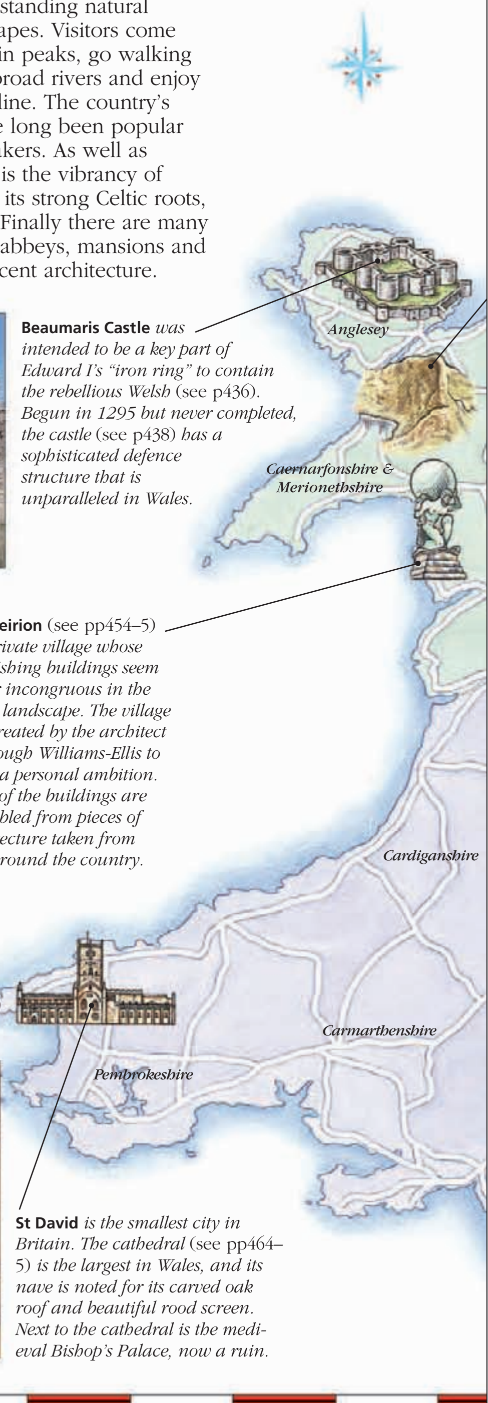
WALES

INTRODUCING WALES 432–439
NORTH WALES 440–455
SOUTH AND MID-WALES 456–475

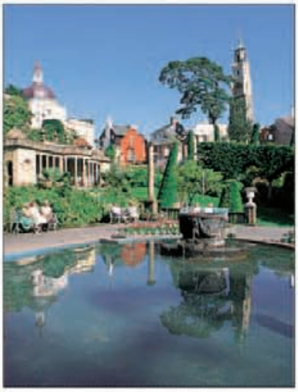
BARJ
CAERNAR

Wales at a Glance

Wales is a country of outstanding natural beauty with varied landscapes. Visitors come to climb dramatic mountain peaks, go walking in the forests, fish in the broad rivers and enjoy the miles of unspoilt coastline. The country's many seaside resorts have long been popular with English holidaymakers. As well as outdoor pursuits there is the vibrancy of Welsh culture, with its strong Celtic roots, to be experienced. Finally there are many fine castles, ruined abbeys, mansions and cities full of magnificent architecture.



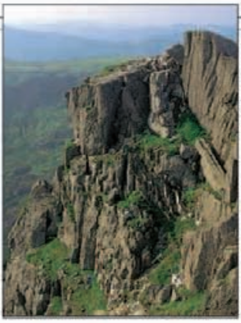
Beaumaris Castle *was intended to be a key part of Edward I's "iron ring" to contain the rebellious Welsh* (see p436). *Begun in 1295 but never completed, the castle* (see p438) *has a sophisticated defence structure that is unparalleled in Wales.*



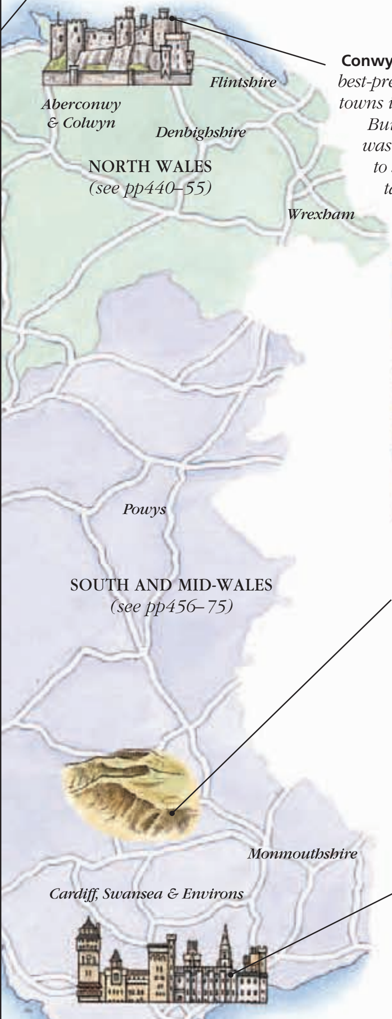
Portmeirion (see pp454–5) *is a private village whose astonishing buildings seem rather incongruous in the Welsh landscape. The village was created by the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis to fulfill a personal ambition. Some of the buildings are assembled from pieces of architecture taken from sites around the country.*

St David *is the smallest city in Britain. The cathedral* (see pp464–5) *is the largest in Wales, and its nave is noted for its carved oak roof and beautiful rood screen. Next to the cathedral is the medieval Bishop's Palace, now a ruin.*

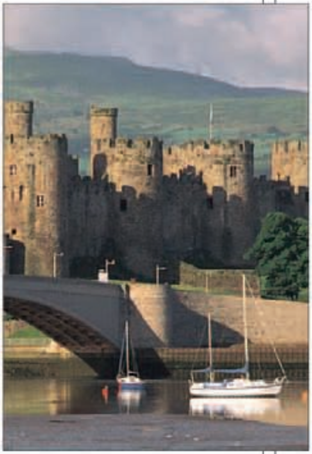
◁ **Caernarfon's colourful quayside marina**



Llanberis and Snowdon (see p451) *is an area famous for dangerous, high peaks, long popular with climbers. Mount Snowdon's summit is most easily reached from Llanberis. Its Welsh name,* Yr Wyddfa Fawr, *means "great tomb" and it is the legendary burial place of a giant slain by King Arthur* (see p285).

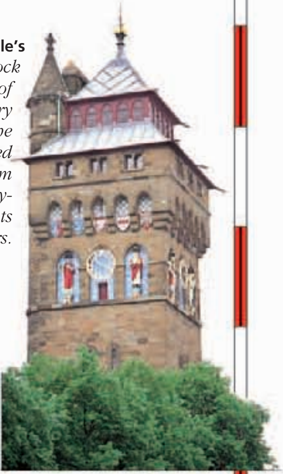

Flintshire
Aberconwy & Colwyn
Denbighshire
NORTH WALES
(see pp440–55)
Wrexham
Powys
SOUTH AND MID-WALES
(see pp456–75)
Monmouthshire
Cardiff, Swansea & Environs
0 kilometres 25
0 miles 25

Conwy Castle *guards one of the best-preserved medieval fortified towns in Britain* (see pp446–7). *Built by Edward I, the castle was besieged and came close to surrender in 1294. It was taken by Owain Glyndŵr's supporters in 1401.*



The Brecon Beacons (see pp468–9) *is a national park, a lovely area of mountains, forest and moorland in South Wales, which is a favourite with walkers and naturalists. Pen-y-Fan is one of the principal summits.*

Cardiff Castle's (see pp472–3) *Clock Tower is just one of many 19th-century additions by the eccentric but gifted architect William Burges. His flamboyant style still delights and amazes visitors.*



A PORTRAIT OF WALES

Long popular with British holidaymakers, the many charms of Wales are now becoming better known internationally. They include spectacular scenery and a vibrant culture specializing in male-voice choirs, poetry and a passionate love of team sports. Governed from Westminster since 1536, Wales has its own distinct Celtic identity and in 1999 finally gained partial devolution.

Much of the Welsh landmass is covered by the Cambrian Mountain range, which effectively acts as a barrier from England. Wales is warmed by the Gulf Stream and has a mild climate, with more rain than most of Britain. The land is unsuitable for arable farming, but sheep and cattle thrive; the drove roads, along which sheep used to be driven across the hills to England, are now popular walking trails. It is partly because of the rugged terrain that the Welsh have managed to maintain their separate identity and their ancient language.

Welsh is an expansive, musical language, spoken by only one-fifth of the 3 million inhabitants, but in parts of North Wales it is still the main language of conversation. There is an official bilingual policy: road signs are in Welsh and English, even in areas where Welsh is little spoken. Welsh place names intrigue visitors, being made up of native words that describe features of the landscape or ancient buildings. Examples include *Aber* (river mouth), *Afon* (river), *Fach* (little), *Llan* (church) *Llyn* (lake) and *Nant* (valley).

PARC CENEDLAETHOL ERYRI
SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

One of Wales's splendid National Parks

Mountain sheep: a familiar sight in rural Wales

Wales was conquered by the Romans, but not by the Saxons. The land and the people therefore retained Celtic patterns of settlement and husbandry for six centuries before the Norman Conquest in 1066. This allowed time for the development of a distinctive Welsh nation whose homogeneity continues to this day.

The early Norman kings subjugated the Welsh by appointing "Marcher Lords" to control areas bordering England. A string of massive castles provides evidence of the turbulent years when Welsh insurrection was a constant threat. It was not until 1535 that Wales formally became part of Britain, and it would take nearly 500 years before the people of Wales regained partial autonomy.

Rugby: the popuiar Welsh sport

Religious non-conformism and radical politics are deeply rooted in Welsh consciousness. Saint David converted the country to Christianity in the 6th century. Methodism, chapel and teetotalism became firmly entrenched in

A *gorsedd* (assembly) of bards at the eisteddfod

the Welsh psyche during the 19th century. Even today some pubs stay closed on Sundays. A long-standing oral tradition in Wales has produced many outstanding public speakers, politicians and actors. Welsh labour leaders have played important roles in the British trade union movement and the development of socialism.

Welsh lovespoon

Welsh heritage is steeped in song, music, poetry and legend rather than handicrafts, although one notable exception is the carved Welsh lovespoon – a craft recently revived. The well-known Welsh love of music derives from the ancient bards: minstrels and poets, who may have been associated with the Druids. Bardic tales of quasi-historical figures and magic were part of the oral tradition of the Dark Ages. They were first written down in the 14th century as the *Mabinogion,* which has inspired Welsh poets up to the 20th century's Dylan Thomas. The male-voice choirs found in many towns, villages and factories, particularly in the industrial south, express the Welsh musical heritage. Choirs compete in eisteddfods: festivals that celebrate Welsh culture.

In the 19th century, the opening of the South Wales coalfield in Mid-Glamorgan – for a time the biggest in the world – led to an industrial boom, with mass migration from the countryside to the iron and steelworks. This prosperity was not to last: apart from a brief respite in World War II, the coal industry has been in terminal decline for decades, causing severe economic hardship. Today tourism is being promoted in the hope that the wealth generated, by outdoor activities in particular, will be able to take "King Coal's" place.

Conwy's picturesque, medieval walled town, fronted by a colourful harbour

The History of Wales

St David, patron saint of Wales

Wales has been settled since prehistoric times, its history shaped by many factors, from invasion to industrialization. The Romans set up bases in the mountainous terrain, but it was effectively a separate Celtic nation when Offa's Dyke was built as the border with England in 770. Centuries of cross-border raids and military campaigns followed before England and Wales were formally united by the Act of Union in 1535. The rugged north-west, the former stronghold of the Welsh princes, remains the heartland of Welsh language and culture.

THE CELTIC NATION

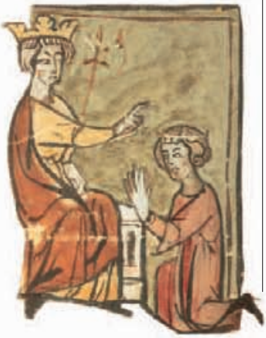
Ornamental Iron Age bronze plaque from Anglesey

Wales was settled by waves of migrants in prehistoric times. By the Iron Age *(see pp42–3),* Celtic farmers had established hillforts and their religion, Druidism. From the 1st century AD until the legions withdrew around 400, the Romans built fortresses and roads, and mined lead, silver and gold. During the next 200 years, Wales was converted to Christianity by missionaries from Europe. St David *(see pp464–5),* the Welsh patron saint, is said to have turned the leek into a national symbol. He persuaded soldiers to wear leeks in their hats to distinguish themselves from Saxons during a 6th-century skirmish.

The Saxons *(see pp46–7)* failed to conquer Wales, and in 770 the Saxon King Offa built a defensive earthwork along the unconquered territory *(see p461).* Beyond Offa's Dyke the people called themselves *Y Cymry* (fellow countrymen) and the land *Cymru*. The Saxons called the land "Wales" from the Old English *wealas*, meaning foreigners. It was divided into kingdoms of which the main ones were Gwynedd in the north, Powys in the centre and Dyfed in the south. There were strong trade, cultural and linguistic links between each.

MARCHER LORDS

The Norman invasion of 1066 *(see p47)* did not reach Wales, but the border territory ("the Marches") was given by William the Conqueror to three powerful barons based at Shrewsbury, Hereford and Chester. These Marcher Lords made many incursions into Wales and controlled most of the lowlands. But the Welsh princes held the mountainous northwest and exploited English weaknesses. Under Llywelyn the Great (d.1240), North Wales was almost completely independent; in 1267 his grandson, Llywelyn the Last, was acknowledged as Prince of Wales by Henry III.



Edward I designating his son Prince of Wales in 1301

Owain Glyndwr, heroic leader of Welsh opposition to English rule

In 1272 Edward I came to the English throne. He built fortresses and embarked on a military campaign to conquer Wales. In 1283 Llywelyn was killed in a skirmish, a shattering blow for the Welsh. Edward introduced English law and proclaimed his son Prince of Wales *(see p444).*

OWAIN GLYNDWR'S REBELLION

Welsh resentment against the Marcher Lords led to rebellion. In 1400 Owain Glyndŵr (c.1350–1416), a descendant of the Welsh princes, laid waste to English-dominated towns and castles. Declaring himself Prince of Wales, he found Celtic allies in Scotland, Ireland, France and Northumbria. In 1404 Glyndŵr captured Harlech and Cardiff, and formed a parliament in Machynlleth *(see p462).* In 1408 the French made a truce with the English king, Henry IV. The rebellion then failed and Glyndŵr went into hiding until his death.

UNION WITH ENGLAND

Wales suffered greatly during the Wars of the Roses *(see p49)* as Yorkists and Lancastrians tried to gain control of the strategically important Welsh castles. The wars ended in 1485, and the Welshman Henry Tudor, born in Pembroke, became Henry VII. The Act of Union in 1535 and other laws abolished the Marcher Lordships, giving Wales parliamentary representation in London instead. English practices replaced inheritance customs and English became the language of the courts and administration. The Welsh language survived, partly helped by the church and by Dr William Morgan's translation of the Bible in 1588.

Vernacular Bible, which helped to keep the Welsh language alive

INDUSTRY AND RADICAL POLITICS

The industrialization of south and east Wales began with the development of open-cast coal mining near Wrexham and Merthyr Tydfil in the 1760s. Convenient ports and the arrival of the railways helped the process. By the second half of the 19th century open-cast mines had been superseded by deep pits in the Rhondda Valley.

Living and working conditions were poor for industrial and agricultural workers. A series of "Rebecca Riots" in South Wales between 1839 and 1843, involving tenant farmers (dressed as women) protesting about tithes and rents, was forcibly suppressed. The Chartists, trade unions and the Liberal Party had much Welsh support.

Miners from South Wales pictured in 1910

The rise of Methodism *(see p279)* roughly paralleled the growth of industry: 80 per cent of the population was Methodist by 1851. The Welsh language persisted, despite attempts by the British government to discourage its use, which included punishing children caught speaking it.

WALES TODAY

In the 20th century the Welsh became a power in British politics. David Lloyd George, although not born in Wales, grew up there and was the first British Prime Minister to come from a Welsh family. Aneurin Bevan, a miner's son who became a Labour Cabinet Minister, helped create the National Health Service *(see p59)*.

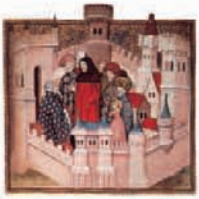
Welsh nationalism continued to grow: in 1926 Plaid Cymru, the Welsh Nationalist Party, was formed. In 1955 Cardiff was recognized as the capital of Wales *(see p470)* and four years later the red dragon became the emblem on Wales' new flag. Plaid Cymru won two parliamentary seats at Westminster in 1974, and in a 1998 referendum the Welsh espoused limited home rule. The National Assembly for Wales is housed in the stunning Y Senedd, on the waterfront in Cardiff Bay.

The 1967 Welsh Language Act made Welsh compulsory in schools, and the television channel S4C (Sianel 4 Cymru), formed in 1982, broadcasts many programmes in Welsh.

From the 1960s the steel and coal industries declined, creating mass unemployment. This has been partly alleviated by the emergence of high-tech industries, and by growth in tourism: Cardiff is home to many major tourist attractions including the Millennium Stadium and Cardiff Bay, Europe's largest waterfront development *(see pp470–71)*.

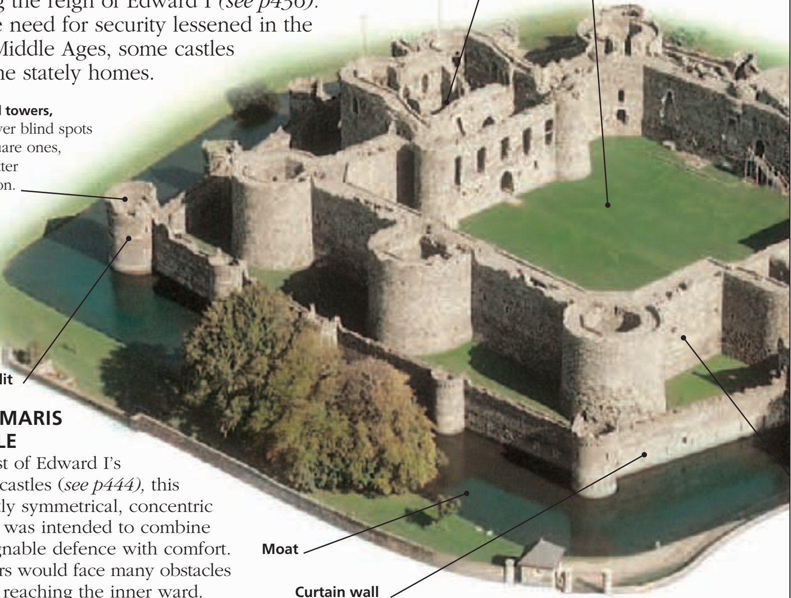
Girl in traditional Welsh costume

Castles of Wales



A French 15th-century painting of Conwy Castle

Wales is rich in romantic medieval castles. Soon after the Battle of Hastings, in 1066 *(see p47),* the Normans turned their attentions to Wales. They built earth and timber fortifications, later replaced by stone castles, initiating a building programme that was pursued by the Welsh princes and invading forces. Construction reached its peak during the reign of Edward I *(see p436).* As the need for security lessened in the later Middle Ages, some castles became stately homes.


The north gatehouse was planned to be 18 m (60 ft) high, providing lavish royal accommodation, but its top storey was never built.
The inner ward was lined with a hall, granary, kitchens and stables.
Rounded towers, with fewer blind spots than square ones, gave better protection.
Arrow slit
Moat
Curtain wall

BEAUMARIS CASTLE

The last of Edward I's Welsh castles (*see p444),* this perfectly symmetrical, concentric design was intended to combine impregnable defence with comfort. Invaders would face many obstacles before reaching the inner ward.

WHERE TO SEE WELSH CASTLES

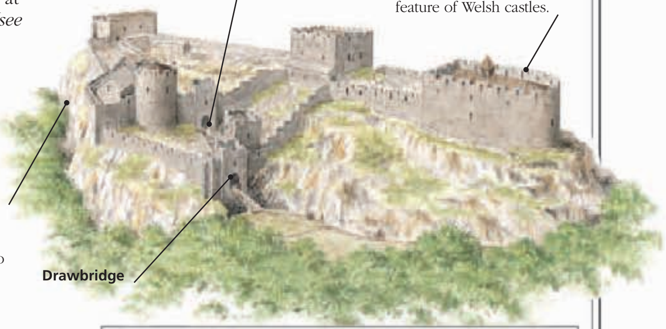
In addition to Beaumaris, in North Wales there are medieval forts at Caernarfon *(see p444),* Conwy *(see p446)* and Harlech *(see p454).* Edward I also built Denbigh, Flint (near Chester) and Rhuddlan (near Rhyll). In South and mid-Wales, Caerphilly (near Cardiff), Kidwelly (near Carmarthen) and Pembroke were built between the 11th and 13th centuries. Spectacular sites are occupied by Cilgerran (near Cardigan), Criccieth (near Porthmadog) and Carreg Cennen *(see p468).* Chirk Castle, near Llangollen, is a good example of a fortress that has since become a stately home.

Caerphilly, *6 miles (10 km) north of Cardiff, is a huge castle with concentric stone and water defences that cover 12 ha (30 acres).*

Harlech Castle (see p454) *is noted for its massive gatehouse, twin towers and the fortified stairway to the sea. It was the headquarters of the Welsh resistance leader Owain Glyndŵr* (see p436) *from 1404–8.*

CASTELL-Y-BERE

This native Welsh castle at the foot of Cader Idris *(see p440)* was founded by Llywelyn the Great in 1221 *(see p422)*, to secure internal borders rather than to resist the English.

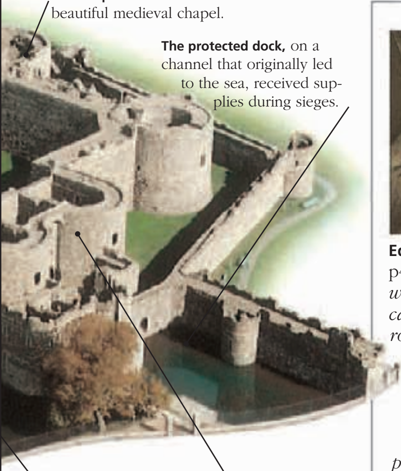


Entrance

The D-shaped, elongated tower is a typical feature of Welsh castles.

The castle's construction follows the shape of the rock. The curtain walls are too low and insubstantial to be of much practical use.

Drawbridge



The Chapel Tower has a beautiful medieval chapel.

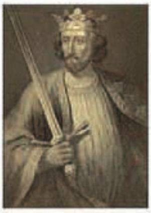
The protected dock, on a channel that originally led to the sea, received supplies during sieges.

The inner wall, with an inner passage, was higher than the curtain wall to permit simultaneous firing.

Twin-towered gatehouse

EDWARD I AND MASTER JAMES OF ST GEORGE

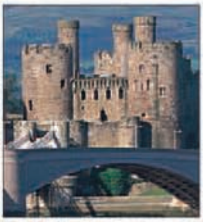
In 1278 Edward I brought over from Savoy a master stonemason who became a great military architect, James of St George. Responsible for planning and building at least 12 of Edward's fine Welsh castles, James was paid well and liberally pensioned off, indicating the esteem in which he was held by the king.



Edward I (see p436) *was the warrior king whose castles played a key role in the subjugation of the Welsh people.*

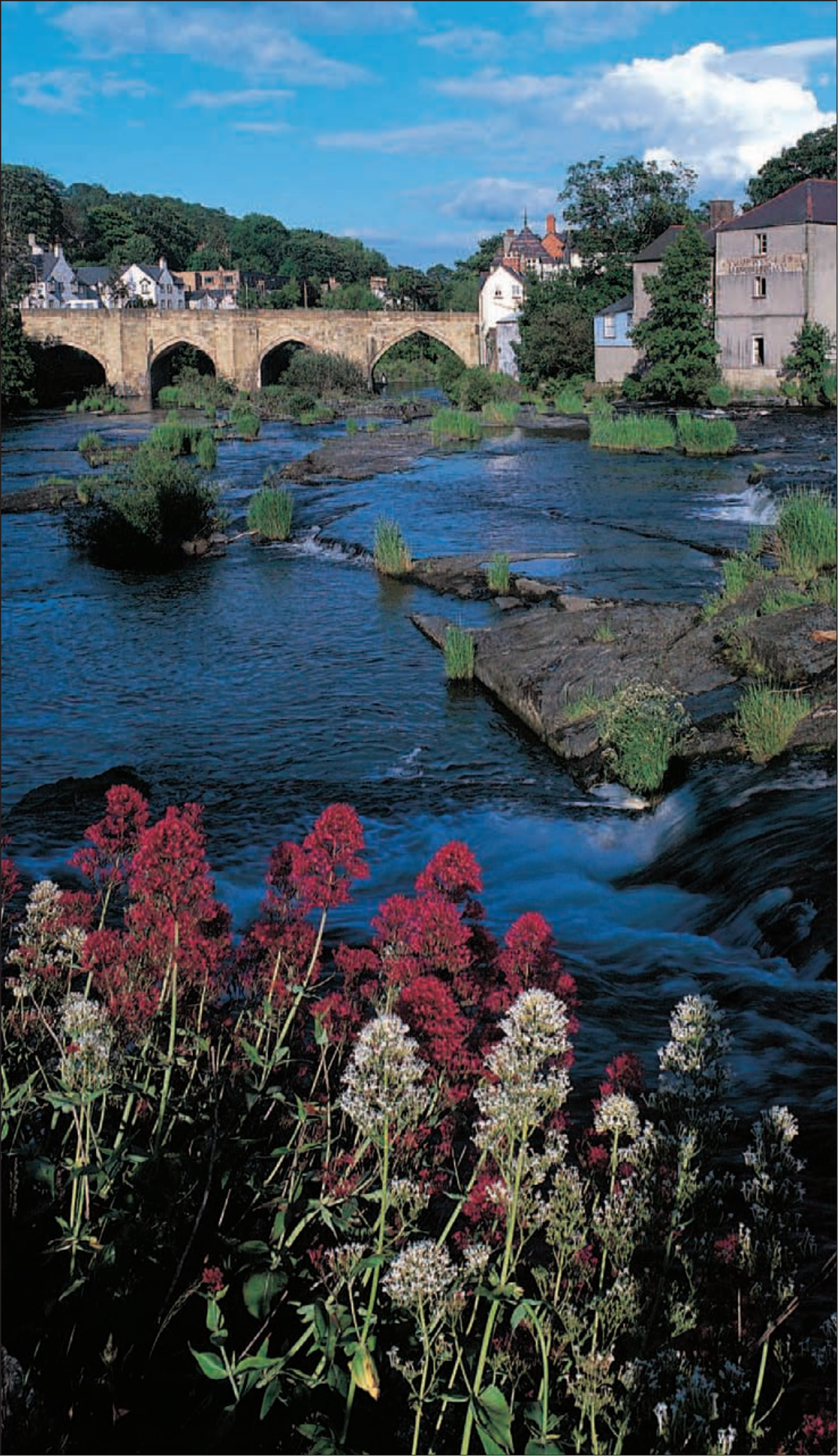
A plan of Caernarfon Castle *illustrates how its position, on a promontory surrounded by water, has determined the building's shape and defence.*

Caernarfon Castle (see p444), *birthplace of the ill-fated Edward II* (see p327), *was intended to be the official royal residence in North Wales, and has palatial private apartments.*



Conwy Castle (see p447), *like many other castles, required forced labour on a massive scale for its construction.*

Castell Coch *was restored in Neo-Gothic style by Lord Bute and William Burges* (see p472). *Mock-castles were built by many Victorian industrialists.*



NORTH WALES

ABERCONWY & COLWYN · ANGLESEY · CAERNARFONSHIRE & MERIONETHSHIRE · DENBIGHSHIRE · FLINTSHIRE · WREXHAM

The North Wales landscape has a dramatic quality reflected in its history. In prehistoric times, Anglesey was a stronghold of the religious elite known as the Druids. Roman and Norman invasions concentrated on the coast, leaving the mountains to the Welsh. These wild areas are the centre of Welsh language and culture.

Defence and conquest have been constant themes in Welsh history. North Wales was the scene of ferocious battles between the Welsh princes and Anglo-Norman monarchs determined to establish English rule. The string of formidable castles which still stand in North Wales are as much a testament to Welsh resistance as to the wealth and strength of the invaders. Several massive fortresses, including Beaumaris, Caernarfon and Harlech, almost surround the rugged high country of Snowdonia, an area that even today maintains an untamed quality.

Sheep and cattle farming are the basis of the rural economy here, though there are also large areas of forestry. Along the coast, tourism is a major activity. Llandudno, a purpose-built Victorian resort, popularized the sandy northern coastline in the 19th century. The area continues to attract large numbers of visitors, though major development is confined to the narrow coastal strip that lies between Prestatyn and Llandudno, leaving the island of Anglesey and the remote Llyn Peninsula largely untouched. The Llyn Peninsula remains one of the strongholds of the Welsh language, along with rather isolated inland communities, such as Dolgellau and Bala.

No part of North Wales can truly be called industrial, though there are still remnants of the once-prosperous slate industry in Snowdonia, where the stark, grey quarries provide a striking contrast to the natural beauty of the surrounding mountains. At the foot of Snowdon (the highest mountain in Wales), the villages of Beddgelert, Betws-y-Coed and Llanberis are popular bases for walkers who come to enjoy the spectacular views and striking beauty of this remote region.

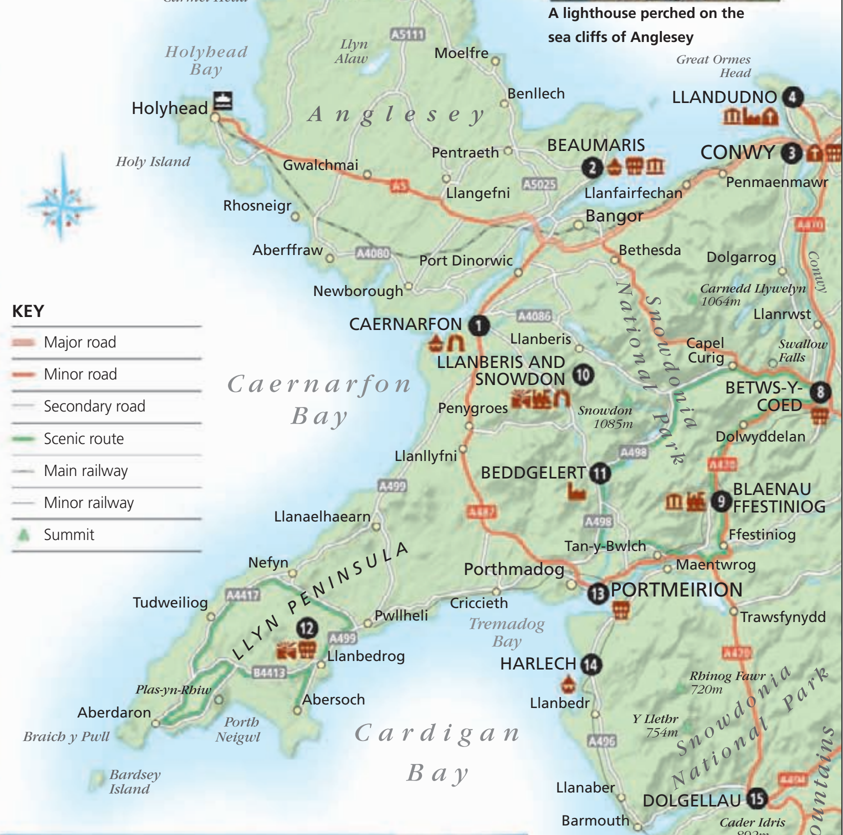
Caernarfon Castle, one of the forbidding fortresses built by Edward I

◁ **The River Dee at Llangollen, still an area of unspoilt natural beauty**

Exploring North Wales

The dominant feature of North Wales is Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales. Snowdonia National Park extends dramatically from the Snowdon massif south beyond Dolgellau, with thickly wooded valleys, mountain lakes, moors and estuaries. To the east are the softer Clwydian Hills, and unspoilt coastlines can be enjoyed on Anglesey and the beautiful Llyn Peninsula.

A lighthouse perched on the sea cliffs of Anglesey


Carmel Head
Cemaes
A5025
Amlwch
Holyhead Bay
Llyn Alaw
A5111
Moelfre
Great Ormes Head
Benllech
LLANDUDNO ④
Holyhead
Anglesey
Holy Island
Pentraeth
BEAUMARIS ②
CONWY ③
Gwalchmai
A5
Llangefni
A5025
Llanfairfechan
Penmaenmawr
Rhosneigr
Bangor
A470
Aberffraw
A4080
Bethesda
Dolgarrog
Port Dinorwic
Conwy
Newborough
Carnedd Llywelyn 1064m
A4086
Llanrwst
CAERNARFON ①
Llanberis
Capel Curig
Swallow Falls
LLANBERIS AND SNOWDON ⑩
Snowdonia National Park
Caernarfon Bay
BETWS-Y-COED ⑧
Penygroes
Snowdon 1085m
Dolwyddelan
A498
Llanllyfni
BEDDGELERT ⑪
A470
A499
BLAENAU FFESTINIOG ⑨
A487
Llanaelhaearn
A498
Ffestiniog
Tan-y-Bwlch
Nefyn
LLYN PENINSULA
Porthmadog
Maentwrog
Tudweiliog
A4417
PORTMEIRION ⑬
Criccieth
Pwllheli
⑫
Trawsfynydd
A499
Tremadog Bay
Llanbedrog
HARLECH ⑭
A470
B4413
Rhinog Fawr 720m
Plas-yn-Rhiw
Llanbedr
Abersoch
Aberdaron
Y Llethr 754m
Porth Neigwl
Cardigan Bay
A496
Snowdonia National Park
Braich y Pwll
Bardsey Island
Llanaber
DOLGELLAU ⑮
A470
Barmouth
Cader Idris 892m
Barmouth Bay
Fairbourne
Cambrian Mountains
A493
A487
Llwyngwril
Abergynolwyn
A493
Tywyn
Aberystwyth
⑯ ABERDYFI

KEY

- Major road
- Minor road
- Secondary road
- Scenic route
- Main railway
- Minor railway
- ▲ Summit

The peaks and moorland of Snowdonia

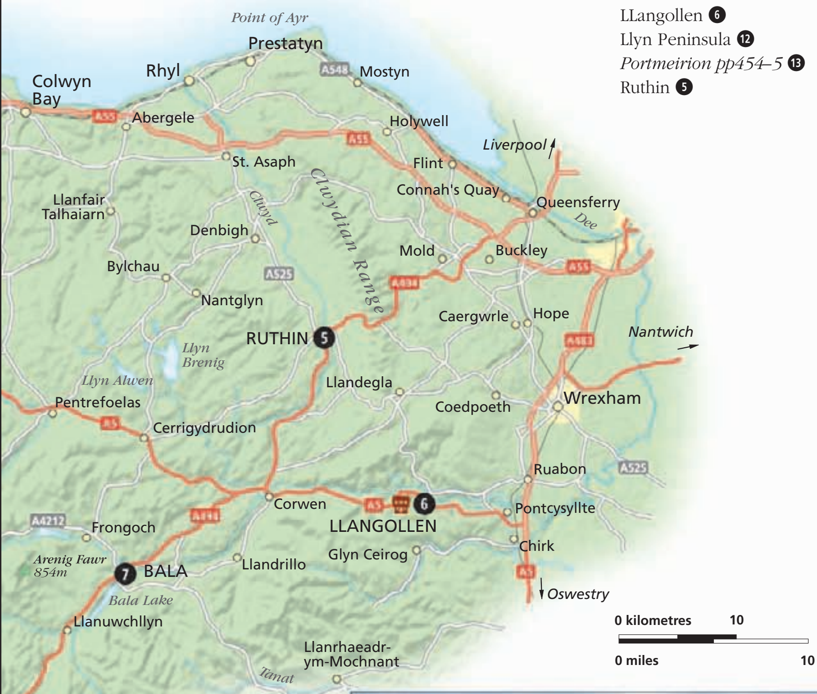
For additional map symbols *see back flap*

GETTING AROUND

The main route into North Wales from the northwest of England is the A55, a good dual carriageway which bypasses several places that used to be traffic bottlenecks, including Conwy. The other main route through the region is the A5 Shrewsbury to Holyhead road, which follows a trail through the mountains pioneered by the 19th-century engineer Thomas Telford *(see p447)*. Rail services run along the coast to Holyhead, connecting with ferries across the Irish Sea to Dublin and Dun Laoghaire. Scenic branch lines travel from Llandudno Junction to Blaenau Ffestiniog (via Betws-y-Coed) and along the southern Llyn Peninsula.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Aberdyfi ⑯
Bala ⑦
Beaumaris ②
Beddgelert ⑪
Betws-y-Coed ⑧
Blaenau Ffestiniog ⑨
Caernarfon ①
Conwy pp446–7 ③
Dolgellau ⑮
Harlech ⑭
Llanberis and Snowdon ⑩
LLandudno ④
LLangollen ⑥
Llyn Peninsula ⑫
Portmeirion pp454–5 ⑬
Ruthin ⑤


Point of Ayr
Prestatyn
Rhyl
Colwyn Bay
A548
Mostyn
A55
Abergele
Holywell
A55
Liverpool
St. Asaph
Flint
Connah's Quay
Queensferry
Dee
Llanfair Talhaiarn
Clwyd
Cluydian Range
Denbigh
Mold
Buckley
A55
Bylchau
A525
A494
Nantglyn
Caergwrle
Hope
A483
Nantwich
Llyn Brenig
RUTHIN ⑤
Llyn Alwen
Llandegla
Pentrefoelas
Coedpoeth
Wrexham
A5
Cerrigydrudion
Ruabon
A525
Corwen
A5
⑥
Pontcysyllte
A4212
A494
LLANGOLLEN
Frongoch
Chirk
Glyn Ceirog
Arenig Fawr 854m
⑦ BALA
Llandrillo
A5
Oswestry
Bala Lake
0 kilometres 10
0 miles 10
Llanuwchllyn
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
Tanat
Aran Fawddwy 905m
A470
Shrewsbury
A458
Mallwyd

The imposing castle built at Conwy by Edward I in the 13th century

SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp590–91
- ***Where to Eat*** pp642–4

Caernarfon Castle, built by Edward I as a symbol of his power over the conquered Welsh

Caernarfon ❶

Caernarfonshire & Merionethshire (Gwynedd). 👥 *10,000.* 🚌
ℹ *Castle St (01286 672232).*
⛀ *Sat.* **www**.gwynedd.gov.uk

One of the most famous castles in Wales, Caernarfon Castle, looms over this busy town. Both town and castle were created after Edward I's defeat of the last native Welsh prince, Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (Llywelyn the Last) in 1283 *(see p436)*. The town walls merge with modern streets that spread beyond the medieval centre to a market square.

THE INVESTITURE

In 1301 the future Edward II became the first English Prince of Wales *(see p436)*, a title since held by the British monarch's eldest son. In 1969 the investiture in Caernarfon Castle of Prince Charles *(above)* as Prince of Wales drew 500 million TV viewers.

Overlooking the town and its harbour, **Caernarfon Castle** *(see p439)*, with its polygonal towers, was built as a seat of government for North Wales. Caernarfon was a thriving port in the 19th century, and during this period the castle ruins were restored by the architect Anthony Salvin. Displays in the castle include the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum, and exhibitions tracing the history of the Princes of Wales and exploring the theme "Chieftains and Princes".

Situated on the hill above the town are the ruins of **Segontium**, a Roman fort built in about AD 78. Local legend claims that the first Christian Emperor of Rome, Constantine the Great, was born here in 280.

Caernarfon Castle
Y Maes. ***Tel*** *01286 677617.*
○ *daily.* 📷 ✋ *call for details.* 🛍
www.caernarfon.com

Segontium
(NT) Beddgelert Rd. ***Tel*** *01286 675625.* ○ *Tue–Sun (Sun: pm).*
● *1 Jan, 24, 26 Dec.* ♿ *limited.*
🛍 **www**.segontium.org.uk

Beaumaris ❷

Anglesey (Gwynedd). 👥 *2,000.* 🚌
ℹ *Llanfair PG, Station Site, Holyhead Rd, Anglesey (01248 713177).*
www.visitanglesey.co.uk

Handsome Georgian and Victorian architecture gives Beaumaris the air of a resort on England's southern coast. The buildings reflect this sailing centre's past role as Anglesey's chief port, before the island was linked to the mainland by the road and railway bridges built across the Menai Strait in the 19th century. This was the site of Edward I's last, and possibly greatest, **castle** *(see p438)*, which was built to command this important ferrying point to the mainland of Wales.

Ye Olde Bull's Head inn, on Castle Street, was built in 1617. Its celebrated literary patrons have included Dr Samuel Johnson (1709–84) and Victorian novelist Charles Dickens *(see p189)*.

The town's **Courthouse**, was built in 1614, and the restored 1829 **Gaol** preserves its soundproofed punishment room and a huge treadmill for prisoners. Two public hangings took place here. Richard Rowlands, the last victim, protested his innocence and cursed the church clock as he was led to the gallows, declaring that its four faces would never show the same times again. It failed to show consistent times until it had an overhaul in 1980.

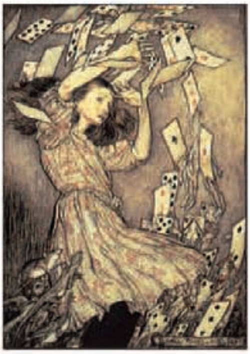
Beaumaris Castle
Castle St. ***Tel*** *01248 810361.*
○ *daily.* 📷 ♿
www.beaumaris.com

Courthouse
Castle St. ***Tel*** *01248 811691.*
○ *Apr–Sep: daily.* 📷 ♿ 🛍

Gaol
Bunkers Hill. ***Tel*** *01248 810921.*
○ *Apr–Sep: daily.* 📷 ♿ *limited.*
🛍 **www**.angleseyheritage.org

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

The Gogarth Abbey Hotel, Llandudno, was the summer home of the Liddells. Their friend, Charles Dodgson (1832–98), would entertain young Alice Liddell with stories of characters such as the White Rabbit and the Mad Hatter. As Lewis Carroll, Dodgson wrote his magical tales in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871).



Arthur Rackham's illustration (1907) of *Alice in Wonderland*

Conwy ❸

See pp446–7.

Llandudno ❹

Gwynedd. 👥 *19,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *Library Building, Mostyn St (01492 577577).* **www**.visitllandudno.org.uk

Llandudno's crescent-shaped bay

Llandudno retains much of the holiday spirit of the 19th century, when the new railways brought crowds to the coast. Its **pier**, more than 700 m (2,295 ft) long, and its canopied walkways recall the heyday of seaside holidays. The town is also proud of its association with the author Lewis Carroll *(see above)*. The exhibits at the **Llandudno Museum** explore Llandudno's history from Roman times onwards.

Llandudno's cheerful seaside atmosphere owes much to a strong sense of its Victorian roots – unlike many British seaside towns, which embraced the flashing lights and funfairs of the 20th century. To take full advantage of its sweeping beach, Llandudno was laid out between its two headlands, Great Orme's Head and Little Orme's Head.

Great Orme's Head, now a Country Park and Nature Reserve, rises to 207 m (670 ft) and has a long history. In the Bronze Age copper was mined here; the **copper mines** and their excavations are open to the public. The **church** on the headland was built from timber in the 6th century by St Tudno, rebuilt in stone in the 13th century, restored in 1855 and is still in use. Local history and wildlife can be traced in an information centre on the summit.

There are two effortless ways to reach the summit: on the **Great Orme Tramway**, one of only three cable-hauled street tramways in the world (the others are in San Francisco and Lisbon), or by the **Llandudno Cable Car**. Both operate only in summer.

🏛 Llandudno Museum

Gloddaeth St. ***Tel*** *01492 876517.*
○ *Easter–Oct: 10:30am–1pm, 2–5pm Tue–Sun.* ♿ *limited.*

Great Orme Copper Mines

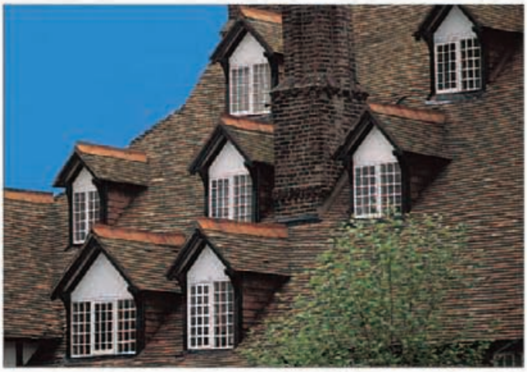
Off A55. ***Tel*** *01492 870447.*
○ *mid-Mar–Oct: daily.*
♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍
www.greatormemines.info

Ruthin ❺

Denbighshire (Clwyd). 👥 *5,000.* 🚌 ℹ *Craft Centre, Park Rd (01824 703992).* *1st Tue of every month; Thu (indoor).* **www**.borderlands.co.uk

Ruthin's long-standing prosperity as a market town is reflected in its fine half-timbered medieval buildings. These include the National Westminster and Barclays banks in St Peter's Square. The former was a 15th-century courthouse and prison, the latter the home of Thomas Exmewe, Lord Mayor of London in 1517–18. **Maen Huail** ("Huail's stone"), a boulder outside Barclays, is said to be where King Arthur *(see p285)* beheaded Huail, his rival in a love affair.

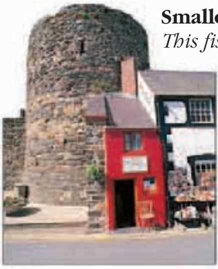
St Peter's Church, on the edge of St Peter's Square, was founded in 1310 and has a Tudor oak roof in the north aisle. Next to the Castle Hotel is the 17th-century pub **The Seven Eyes** (formerly the Myddleton Arms), whose seven unusual, Dutch-style, dormer windows are known locally as the "eyes of Ruthin".



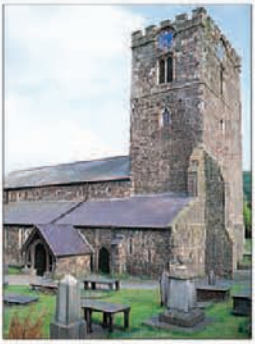
The "eyes of Ruthin", an unusual feature in Welsh architecture

Street-by-Street: Conwy ❸

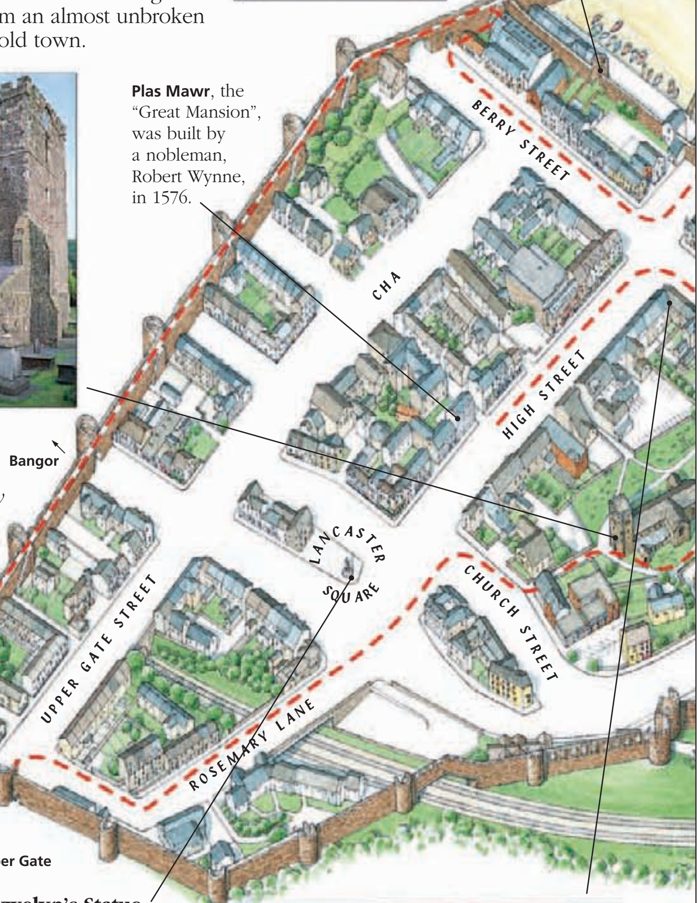
Conwy is one of Britain's most underrated historic towns. Until the early 1990s it was famous as a traffic bottleneck, but thanks to a town bypass, its concentration of architectural riches – unparalleled in Wales – can now be appreciated. The castle dominates: a brooding, intimidating monument built by Edward I *(see p438)*. But Conwy is set apart from other medieval towns by its amazingly well-preserved town walls. Fortified with 21 towers and three gateways, the walls form an almost unbroken shield around the old town.



Smallest House
This fisherman's cottage on the quayside, just over 3 m (10 ft) high, is said to be the smallest house in Britain.



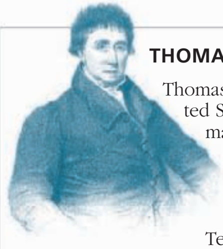
St Mary's Church
This medieval church, on the site of a 12th-century Cistercian abbey, is set in peaceful grounds.



Plas Mawr, the "Great Mansion", was built by a nobleman, Robert Wynne, in 1576.

Llywelyn's Statue
Llywelyn the Great (see p436) *was arguably Wales's most successful medieval leader.*

Aberconwy House
This restored 14th-century house was once the home of a wealthy merchant.



THOMAS TELFORD

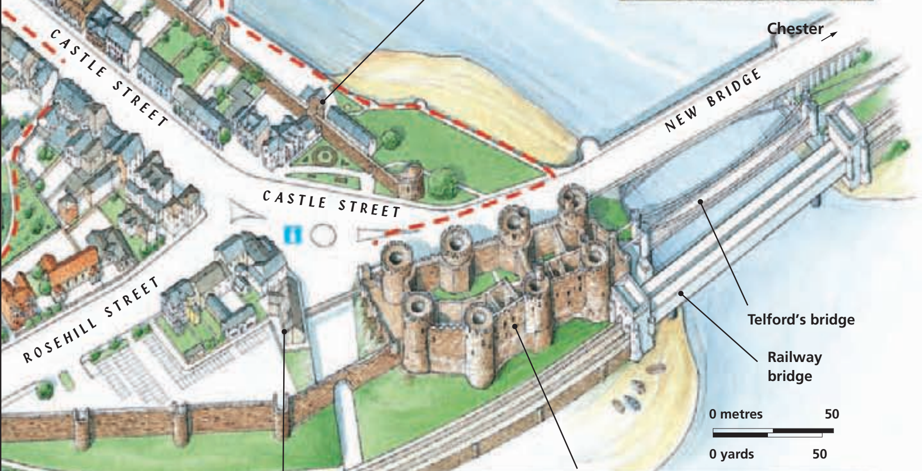
Thomas Telford (1757–1834) was the gifted Scottish engineer responsible for many of Britain's roads, bridges and canals. The Menai Bridge *(see p444)*, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct *(see p450)* and Conwy Bridge are his outstanding works in Wales. Telford's graceful bridge at Conwy has aesthetic as well as practical qualities. Completed in 1826 across the mouth of the Conwy estuary, it was designed in a castellated style to blend with the castle. Before the bridge's construction the estuary could only be crossed by ferry.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Conwy. 👥 *8,000.* 🚆 *Conwy.* ℹ *01492 592248.* **Aberconwy House (NT). *Tel*** *01492 592246.* ○ *Wed–Mon.* ● *Nov–Mar.* ♿ 🛍 **Conwy Castle *Tel*** *01492 592358.* ○ *daily.* ♿ 🛍 **Smallest House *Tel*** *01492 593484.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily.* ♿ **www**.gonorthwales.co.uk

★ Town Walls

These remarkably well-preserved medieval walls are 1,280 m (4,200 ft) long and over 9 m (30 ft) high.


Chester
NEW BRIDGE
CASTLE STREET
CASTLE STREET
ROSEHILL STREET
Telford's bridge
Railway bridge
0 metres 50
0 yards 50
Entrance to castle

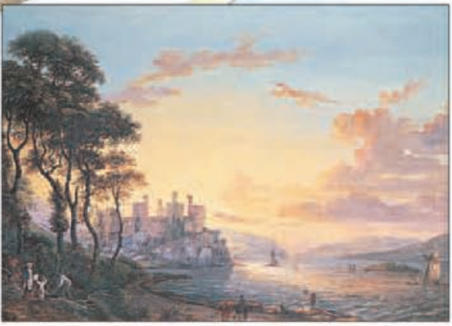
KEY

- - - Suggested route

STAR SIGHTS

★ Town Walls

★ Conwy Castle



★ Conwy Castle

This atmospheric watercolour, Conwy Castle *(c.1770), is by the Nottingham artist Paul Sandby.*

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, built in 1795–1805, carrying the Llangollen Canal

WORLD CULTURES IN LLANGOLLEN

Llangollen's International Eisteddfod *(see p63)* in the first half of July draws musicians, singers and dancers from around the world. First held in 1947 as a gesture of post-war international unity, it now attracts over 12,000 performers from nearly 50 countries to the six-day-long competition-cum-fair.

Choristers at the Eisteddfod, a popular Welsh festival

Llangollen ❻

Denbighshire. 👥 *5,000.* 🚌 ℹ *y Capel, Castle St (01978 860828).* *Tue.* **www**.llangollen.org.uk

Best known for its annual Eisteddfod (festival), this pretty town sits on the River Dee, which is spanned by a 14th-century bridge. The town became notorious in the 1700s, when two Irishwomen, Sarah Ponsonby and Lady Eleanor Butler, the "Ladies of Llangollen", set up house together in the half-timbered **Plas Newydd**. Their unconventional dress and literary enthusiasms attracted such celebrities as the Duke of Wellington *(see p162)* and William Wordsworth *(see p366)*. The ruins of a 13th-century castle, **Castell Dinas Brân**, occupy the summit of a hill overlooking the house.

Environs: Boats on the **Llangollen Canal** sail from Wharf Hill in summer and cross the spectacular 300 m (1,000 ft) long Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, built by Thomas Telford *(see p447)*.

Plas Newydd
(NT) Hill St. ***Tel*** *01248 715272.*
○ *Easter–Oct: Sat–Wed.* ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍

Bala ❼

Gwynedd. 👥 *2,000.* 🚌 *from Llangollen.* ℹ *Penllyn, Pensarn Rd (01678 521021).* **www**.visitsnowdonia.info

Bala Lake, Wales's largest natural lake, lies between the Aran and Arenig mountains at the fringes of Snowdonia National Park. It is popular for water-sports and boasts a unique fish called a *gwyniad,* which is related to the salmon.

The little grey-stone town of Bala is a Welsh-speaking community, its houses strung out along a single street at the eastern end of the lake. Thomas Charles (1755–1814), a Methodist church leader, once lived here. A plaque on his former home recalls Mary Jones who walked 28 miles (42 km) barefoot from Abergynolwyn to buy a Bible. This led to Charles establishing the Bible Society, providing cheap bibles to the working classes.

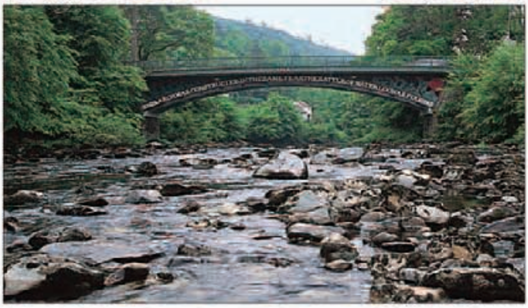
The narrow-gauge **Bala Lake Railway** follows the lake shore from Llanuwchllyn, 4 miles (6 km) southwest.

Betws-y-Coed ❽

Conwy. 👥 *600.* 🚆 ℹ *Royal Oak Stables (01690 710426).* **www**.betws-y-coed.co.uk

This village near the peaks of Snowdonia has been a hill-walking centre since the 19th century. To the west are the **Swallow Falls**, where the River Llugwy flows through a wooded glen. The bizarre **Ty Hyll** ("Ugly House"), is a *tŷ unnos* ("one-night house"); traditionally, houses erected between dusk and dawn on common land were entitled to freehold rights, and the owner could enclose land as far as he could throw an axe from the door. To the east is **Waterloo Bridge**, built by Thomas Telford to celebrate the victory against Napoleon.

Ty Hyll
Capel Curig. ***Tel*** *01690 720287.*
House ○ *Easter–Sep: daily.*
Grounds ○ *Easter–Sep: daily; Oct–Easter: Mon–Fri.* ♿ *limited.*



The ornate Waterloo Bridge, built in 1815 after the famous battle

◁ The picturesque village of Beddgelert in Snowdonia National Park

A view of the Snowdonia countryside from Llanberis Pass, the most popular route to Snowdon's peak

Blaenau Ffestiniog ⑨

Gwynedd. 👥 *5,500.* 🚆
ℹ *Betws-y-Coed (01690 710426).*
Tue (Jun–Sep).

Blaenau Ffestiniog, once the slate capital of North Wales, sits among mountains riddled with quarries. The **Llechwedd Slate Caverns**, overlooking Blaenau, opened to visitors in the early 1970s, marking a new role for the declining industrial town. The electric Miners' Tramway takes passengers on a tour into the original caverns.

On the Deep Mine tour, visitors descend on Britain's steepest passenger incline railway to the underground chambers, while sound effects recreate the atmosphere of a working quarry. The dangers included landfalls and floods, as well as the more gradual threat of slate dust breathed into the lungs.

There are slate-splitting demonstrations on the surface, a quarryman's cottage and a re-creation of a Victorian village to illustrate the cramped and basic living conditions endured by workers between the 1880s and 1945.

The popular narrow-gauge **Ffestiniog Railway** *(see pp452–3)* runs from Blaenau to Porthmadog.

Llechwedd Slate Caverns
Off A470. ***Tel*** *01766 830306.*
○ *daily.* ♿ *except the Deep Mine.* **www**.llechwedd-slate-caverns.co.uk

Llanberis and Snowdon ⑩

Gwynedd. 👥 *2,100.* ℹ *High St, Llanberis (01286 870765).*
www.gwynedd.gov.uk

Snowdon, which at 1,085 m (3,560 ft) is the highest peak in Wales, is the main focus of the vast Snowdonia National Park, whose scenery ranges from this rugged mountain country to moors and sandy beaches.

The easiest route to Snowdon's summit begins in Llanberis: the 5 mile (8 km) **Llanberis Track**. From Llanberis Pass, the Miners' Track (once used by copper miners) and the Pyg Track are alternative paths. Walkers should beware of sudden weather changes and dress accordingly. The narrow-gauge **Snowdon Mountain Railway**, which opened in 1896, is an easier option.

Llanberis was a major 19th-century slate town, with grey terraces hewn into the hills. Other attractions are the 13th-century shell of **Dolbadarn Castle**, and, above Lake Peris, the **Electric Mountain**, which has tours of Europe's biggest hydro-electric pumped storage station.

Dolbadarn Castle
Off A4086 nr Llanberis.
Tel *01286 870765.* ○ *daily.*

Electric Mountain
Llanberis. ***Tel*** *01286 870636.*
○ *daily.* ● *Jan.* ♿
www.fhc.co.uk

BRITAIN'S CENTRE OF SLATE

Welsh slates provided roofing material for Britain's new towns in the 19th century. In 1898, the slate industry employed nearly 17,000 men, a quarter of whom worked at Blaenau Ffestiniog. Foreign competition and new materials later took their toll. Quarries such as Dinorwig in Llanberis and Llechwedd in Blaenau Ffestiniog now survive on the tourist trade.

The dying art of slate-splitting

The village of Beddgelert, set among the mountains of Snowdonia

Beddgelert ⑪

Gwynedd. *500.*
ℹ *Canolfan-Hebog (01766 890615).*
www.beddgelerttourism.com

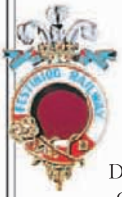
Beddgelert enjoys a spectacular location in Snowdonia. The village sits on the confluence of the Glaslyn and Colwyn rivers at the approach to two mountain passes: the beautiful Nant Gwynant Pass, which leads to Snowdonia's highest reaches, and the Aberglaslyn Pass, a narrow wooded gorge which acts as a gateway to the sea.

Business was given a boost by Dafydd Pritchard, the landlord of the Royal Goat Hotel, who in the early 19th century adapted an old Welsh legend to associate it with Beddgelert. Llywelyn the Great *(see p436)* is said to have left his faithful hound Gelert to guard his infant son while he went hunting. He returned to find the cradle overturned and Gelert covered in blood. Thinking the dog had savaged his son, Llywellyn slaughtered Gelert, but then discovered the boy, unharmed, under the cradle. Nearby was the corpse of a wolf, which Gelert had killed to protect the child. To support the tale, Pritchard created **Gelert's Grave** (*bedd Gelert* in Welsh) by the River Glaslyn, a mound of stones a short walk south of the village.

Environs: There are many fine walks in the area: one leads south to the Aberglaslyn Pass and along a disused part of the Welsh Highland Railway. The **Sygun Copper Mine**, 1 mile (1.5 km) northeast of Beddgelert, offers self-guided tours of caverns recreating the life of Victorian miners.

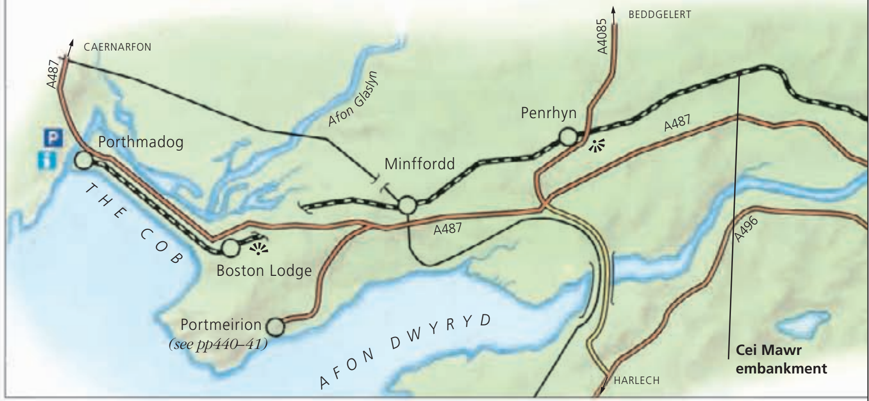
Sygun Copper Mine
On A498. ***Tel*** *01766 890595.*
○ *Mar–Oct: daily; Feb half term.*
♿ *limited.*
www.syguncoppermine.co.uk

Ffestiniog Railway


Railway crest

The Ffestiniog narrow-gauge railway takes a scenic 14 mile (22 km) route from Porthmadog Harbour to the mountains and the slate town of Blaenau Ffestiniog *(see p451)*. Designed to carry slate from the quarries to the quay, the railway replaced a horse-drawn tramway constructed in 1836, operating on a 60 cm (2 ft) gauge. After closure in 1946, it was reconstructed by volunteers and re-opened in sections from 1955–82.

Steam traction *trains were first used on the Ffestiniog Railway in 1863. There are some diesel engines but most trains on the route are still steam-hauled.*



Llyn Peninsula ⓬

Gwynedd. 🚆 🚌 Pwllheli. ⛴ *Aberdaron to Bardsey Island.* ℹ *Min-y-don, Station Sq, Pwllheli (01758 613000).* **www**.nwt.co.uk

This 24-mile (38-km) finger of land points southwest from Snowdonia into the Irish Sea. Although it has popular beaches, notably at Pwllheli, Criccieth, Abersoch and Nefyn, the coast's overriding feature is its untamed beauty. Views are at their most dramatic in the far west and along the mountain-backed northern shores.

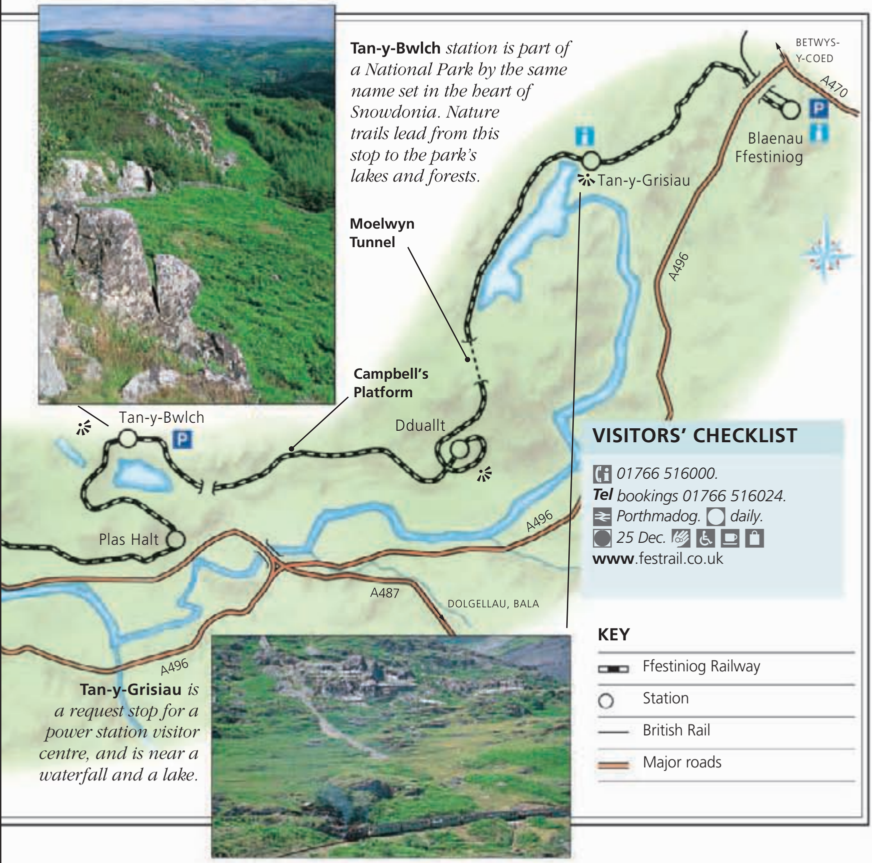
The windy headland of **Braich-y-Pwll**, to the west of Aberdaron, looks out towards Bardsey Island, the "Isle of 20,000 Saints". This became a place of pilgrimage in the 6th century, when a monastery was founded here. Some of the saints are said to be buried in the churchyard of the ruined 13th-century **St Mary's Abbey**. Close by is **Porth Oer**, a small bay also known as "Whistling Sands" (the sand is meant to squeak, or whistle, underfoot).

East of Aberdaron is the 4 mile (6.5 km) bay of **Porth Neigwl**, known in English as Hell's Mouth, the scene of many shipwrecks due to the bay's treacherous currents. Hidden in sheltered grounds above Porth Neigwl bay, 1 mile (1.5 km) northeast of Aberdaron, is **Plas-yn-Rhiw**, a small, medieval manor house with Tudor and Georgian additions and lovely gardens.

The former quarrying village and "ghost town" of **Llithfaen**, tucked away below the sheer cliffs of the mountainous north coast, is now a centre for Welsh language studies.

Plas-yn-Rhiw
(NT) off B4413. ***Tel*** *01758 780219.* ○ *Apr–Oct: Thu–Sun; May, Jun & Sep: Thu–Mon; Jul & Aug: Wed–Mon.* ▨ ♿ *limited.*

Llithfaen village, now a language centre, on the Llyn Peninsula



Tan-y-Bwlch *station is part of a National Park by the same name set in the heart of Snowdonia. Nature trails lead from this stop to the park's lakes and forests.*

Tan-y-Grisiau *is a request stop for a power station visitor centre, and is near a waterfall and a lake.*

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

ℹ *01766 516000.*
Tel *bookings 01766 516024.*
🚆 *Porthmadog.* ○ *daily.*
● *25 Dec.* ▨ ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.festrail.co.uk

KEY

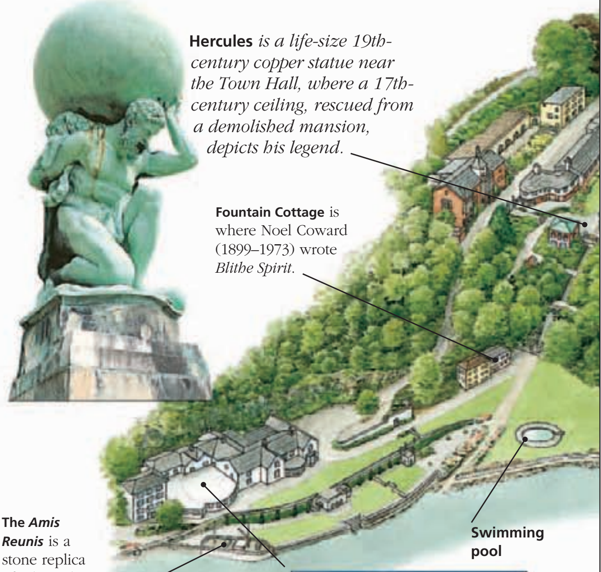
- Ffestiniog Railway
- ○ Station
- British Rail
- Major roads

Portmeirion ⑬

Gwynedd. ***Tel*** *01766 770000.*
🚆 *Minffordd.* ○ *daily* ● *25 Dec.*
✋ ♿ *limited.* ✋ 🍴 ☕ 🛍
www.portmeirion-village.com

This bizarre Italianate village on a private peninsula at the top of Cardigan Bay was created by Welsh architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis (1883–1978). He fulfilled a childhood dream by building a village "to my own fancy on my own chosen site". About 50 buildings surround a central piazza, in styles from Oriental to Gothic. Visitors can stay at the luxurious hotel or in one of the charming village cottages. Portmeirion has been an atmospheric location for many films and television programmes, including the popular 1960s television series *The Prisoner.*

Sir Clough Williams-Ellis at Portmeirion



Hercules *is a life-size 19th-century copper statue near the Town Hall, where a 17th-century ceiling, rescued from a demolished mansion, depicts his legend.*

Fountain Cottage is where Noel Coward (1899–1973) wrote *Blithe Spirit.*

Swimming pool

The *Amis Reunis* is a stone replica of a boat that sank in the bay.

The Portmeirion Hotel *overlooks the bay. In 2005 its dining room was redesigned by Sir Terence Conran.*

Harlech ⑭

Gwynedd. 👥 *1,300.* 🚆 ℹ *High St (01766 780658).* ⛺ *Sun (summer).*
www.gwynedd.gov.uk

This small town with fine beaches is dominated by **Harlech Castle**, a medieval fortress *(see p438)* built by Edward I between 1283 and 1289. The castle sits on a precipitous crag, with superb views of Tremadog Bay and the Llyn Peninsula to the west, and Snowdonia to the north. When the castle was built, the sea reached a fortified stairway cut into the cliff, so that supplies could arrive by ship, but now the sea has receded. A towering gatehouse protects the inner ward, enclosed by walls and four round towers.

Despite its defences, Harlech Castle fell to Owain Glyndŵr *(see p436)* in 1404, and served as his court until its recapture four years later. The song *Men of Harlech* is thought to have been inspired by the castle's heroic resistance during an eight-year siege in the Wars of the Roses *(see p49).*

Harlech Castle
Castle Sq. ***Tel*** *01766 780552.*
○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.*
✋ 🛍 **www**.harlech.com

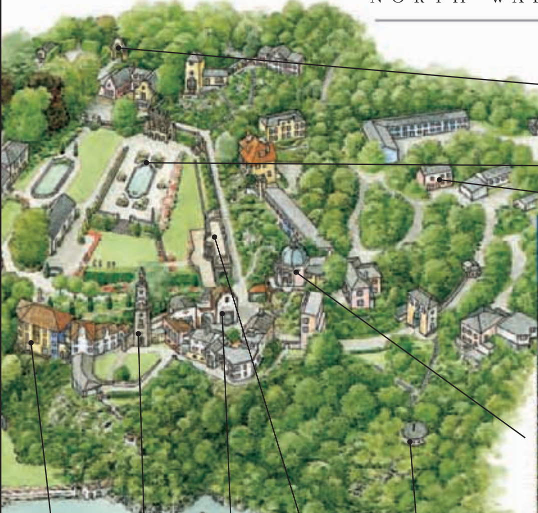
Harlech Castle's strategic site overlooking mountains and sea

Dolgellau ⑮

Gwynedd. 👥 *2,650.* ℹ *Eldon Sq (01341 422888).* ⛺ *Fri (livestock).*

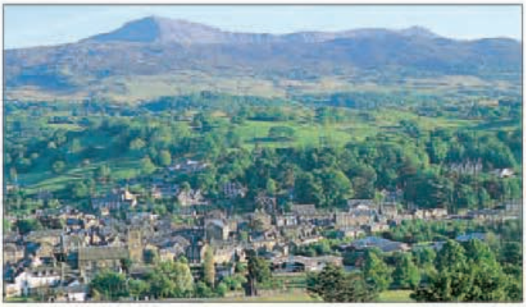
The dark local stone gives a stern, solid look to this market town, where the Welsh language and customs are still very strong. It lies in the long shadow of the 892 m (2,927 ft) mountain of Cader Idris where, according to legend, anyone who spends a night on its summit will awake a poet or a madman – or not at all.

Dolgellau was gripped by gold fever in the 19th century, when high-quality gold was



The Pantheon *was built in 1960–61, but lack of funds meant that the dome was originally made from plywood instead of copper and painted green. The Pantheon's unusual façade is formed by the upper half of a music room fireplace by Norman Shaw* (see p29).

The Ship Shop *sells Portmeirion's famous flowered pottery.*



Dolgellau's grey-stone buildings, dwarfed by the mountain scenery

discovered in the Mawddach Valley nearby. The deposits were not large enough to sustain an intensive mining industry for long. Nevertheless, up until 1999, small amounts were mined and crafted locally into fine jewellery.

Dolgellau is a good centre for walking, whether you wish to take gentle strolls through beautiful leafy countryside or strenuous hikes across extreme terrain with dramatic mountain views. The lovely **Cregennen lakes** are set high in the hills above the thickly wooded **Mawddach Estuary** to the northwest; north are the harsh, bleak **Rhinog moors**, one of Wales's last true wildernesses.

Aberdyfi ⑯

Gwynedd. 👥 *900.* 🚉 ℹ *Wharf Gardens (01654 767321).*
www.gwynedd.gov.uk

Perched on the mouth of the Dyfi Estuary, this little harbour resort and sailing centre makes the most of its splendid but rather confined location, its houses occupying every yard of a narrow strip of land between mountain and sea. In the 19th century, local slate was exported from here, and between the 1830s and the 1860s about 100 ships were built in the port. *The Bells of Aberdovey*, a song by Charles Dibdin for his opera *Liberty Hall* (1785), tells the legend of Cantref-y-Gwaelod, thought to have been located here, which was protected from the sea by dykes. One stormy night, the sluice gates were left open by Prince Seithenyn, when he was drunk, and the land was lost beneath the waves. The submerged church bells are said to peal under the water to this day.

Neat Georgian houses by the sea, Aberdyfi

SOUTH AND MID-WALES

CARDIFF, SWANSEA & ENVIRONS · CARDIGANSHIRE
CARMARTHENSHIRE · MONMOUTHSHIRE · POWYS · PEMBROKESHIRE

South and mid-Wales are less homogeneous regions than North Wales. Most of the population lives in the southeast corner. To the west is Pembrokeshire, the loveliest stretch of Welsh coastline. To the north the industrial valleys give way to the wide hills of the Brecon Beacons and the rural heartlands of central Wales.

South Wales's coastal strip has been settled for many centuries. There are prehistoric sites in the Vale of Glamorgan and Pembrokeshire. The Romans established a major base at Caerleon, and the Normans built castles all the way from Chepstow to Pembroke. In the 18th and 19th centuries, coal mines and ironworks opened in the valleys of South Wales, attracting immigrants from all over Europe. Close communities developed here, focused on the coal trade, which turned Cardiff from a sleepy coastal town into the world's busiest coal-exporting port.

The declining coal industry has again changed the face of this area: slag heaps have become green hills, and the valley towns struggle to find alternative forms of employment. Coal mines such as Blaenafon's Big Pit are now tourist attractions; today, many of the tour guides taking visitors underground are ex-miners, who can offer a first-hand glimpse of the hard life found in mining communities before the pits closed.

The southern boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park marks the beginning of rural Wales. With a population sparser than anywhere in England, this is an area of small country towns, hill-sheep farms, forestry plantations and spectacular man-made lakes.

The number of Welsh-speakers increases and the sense of Welsh culture becomes stronger as you travel further from the border with England, with the exception of an English enclave in south Pembrokeshire.

The changing face of the coal industry: former miners take visitors down the Big Pit in Blaenafon

◁ **Magnificent coastal scenery near St David's, Pembrokeshire**

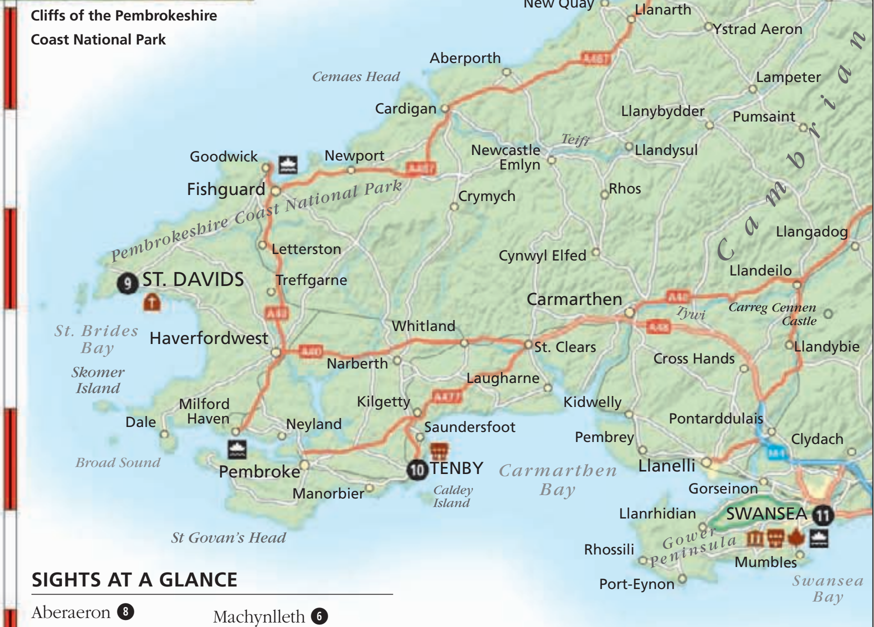
Exploring South and Mid-Wales

Magnificent coastal scenery marks the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and cliff-backed Gower Peninsula, while Cardigan Bay and Carmarthen Bay offer quieter beaches. Walkers can enjoy grassy uplands in the Brecon Beacons and gentler country in the leafy Wye Valley. Urban life is concentrated in the southeast of Wales, where old mining towns line the valleys north of Cardiff, the capital.

Cliffs of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

GETTING AROUND

The M4 motorway is the major route into Wales from the south of England, and there are good road links west of Swansea running to the coast. The A483 and A488 give access to mid-Wales from the Midlands. Frequent rail services connect London with Swansea, Cardiff and the ferry port of Fishguard.


MACHYNLLETH ⑥
Aberdyfi
Borth
Talybont
A487
ABERYSTWYTH ⑦
A44
Rheidol
Devil's Bridge
Cardigan Bay
Llanon
Pontrhydfendigaid
Strata Florida Abbey
ABERAERON ⑧
New Quay
Llanarth
Tregaron
Ystrad Aeron
Aberporth
A487
Cemaes Head
Lampeter
Cardigan
Llanybydder
Pumsaint
Cambrian
Goodwick
Newport
Newcastle Emlyn
Teifi
Llandysul
Fishguard
A487
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Crymych
Rhos
Llangadog
Letterston
Cynwyl Elfed
Llandeilo
⑨ ST. DAVIDS
Treffgarne
Carmarthen
A40
A40
Tywi
Carreg Cennen Castle
St. Brides Bay
Haverfordwest
Whitland
A48
St. Clears
Llandybie
Skomer Island
A40
Narberth
Cross Hands
Laugharne
Milford Haven
Kilgetty
A477
Kidwelly
Dale
Neyland
Saundersfoot
Pontarddulais
Pembrey
Clydach
Broad Sound
Pembroke
⑩ TENBY
Carmarthen Bay
Llanelli
M4
Manorbier
Caldey Island
Gorseinon
Llanrhidian
SWANSEA ⑪
St Govan's Head
Rhossili
Gower Peninsula
Mumbles
Port-Eynon
Swansea Bay

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Aberaeron ⑧
Aberystwyth ⑦
Blaenafon ⑯
Brecon Beacons pp468–9 ⑬
Caerleon ⑮
Cardiff pp470–71 ⑭
Elan Valley ⑤
Hay-on-Wye ③
Knighton ②
Llandrindod Wells ④
Machynlleth ⑥
Monmouth ⑰
Powis Castle ①
St Davids pp464–5 ⑨
Swansea and the Gower Peninsula ⑪
Tenby ⑩
Tintern Abbey ⑱

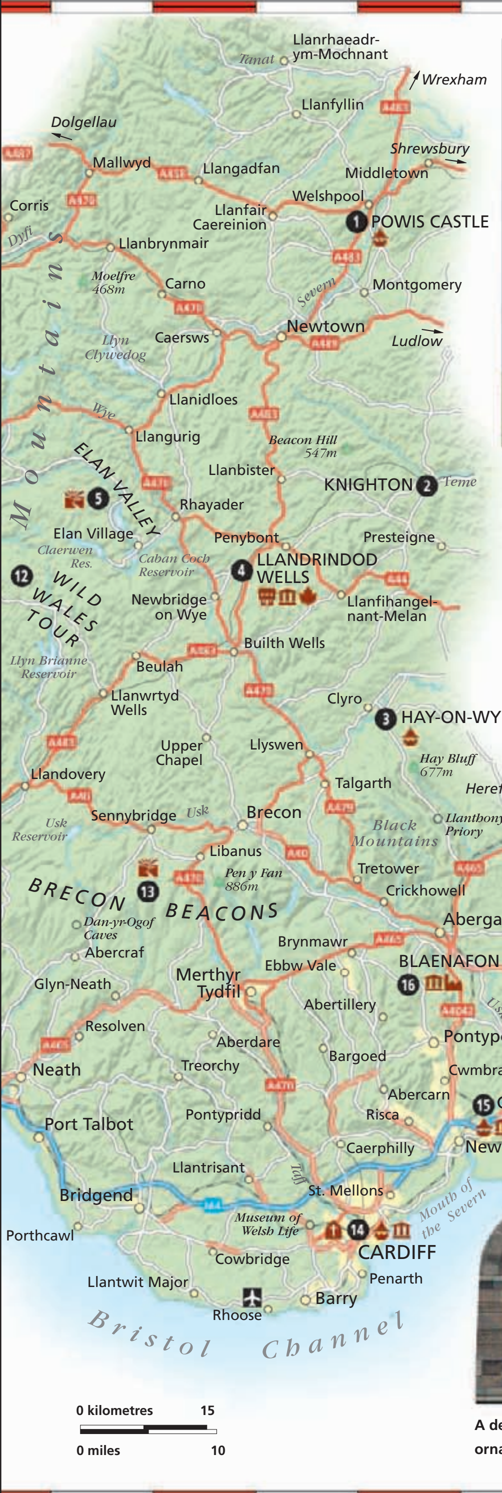
Walks and Tours

Wild Wales Tour ⑫

SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp591–4
- ***Where to Eat*** pp644–6

For additional map symbols *see back flap*


Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
Tanat
Wrexham
Llanfyllin
A483
Dolgellau
Shrewsbury
Mallwyd
Llangadfan
Middletown
A458
A470
A487
Corris
Welshpool
Llanfair Caereinion
1 POWIS CASTLE
Dyfi
Llanbrynmair
A483
Moelfre 468m
Carno
Montgomery
Severn
A470
Newtown
Ludlow
Llyn Clywedog
Caersws
A489
Mountains
Llanidloes
A483
Wye
Llangurig
Beacon Hill 547m
ELAN VALLEY
Llanbister
KNIGHTON 2
Teme
A470
5
Rhayader
Elan Village
Penybont
Presteigne
Claerwen Res.
Caban Coch Reservoir
4 LLANDRINDOD WELLS
A44
12 WILD WALES TOUR
Newbridge on Wye
Llanfihangel-nant-Melan
Builth Wells
A483
Llyn Brianne Reservoir
Beulah
A470
Llanwrtyd Wells
Clyro
3 HAY-ON-WYE
A483
Upper Chapel
Llyswen
Hay Bluff 677m
Llandovery
Talgarth
Hereford
A40
Sennybridge
Usk
Brecon
Usk Reservoir
A479
Black Mountains
Llanthony Priory
Libanus
A40
A470
Tretower
A465
Pen y Fan 886m
BRECON 13 BEACONS
Crickhowell
Ross-on-Wye
Abergavenny
A40
Dan-yr-Ogof Caves
17 MONMOUTH
Abercraf
Brynmawr
A465
BLAENAFON
Raglan
Merthyr Tydfil
Ebbw Vale
Glyn-Neath
16
Abertillery
Usk
A449
Gloucester
A4042
Resolven
Aberdare
Pontypool
TINTERN ABBEY 18
A465
Bargoed
Neath
Treorchy
Cwmbran
Chepstow
A470
Abercarn
15 CAERLEON
Port Talbot
Pontypridd
Risca
M4
Caldicot
Caerphilly
Newport
Llantrisant
Taff
Bristol
Bridgend
St. Mellons
M4
Mouth of the Severn
Museum of Welsh Life
14
Porthcawl
CARDIFF
Cowbridge
Penarth
Llantwit Major
Barry
Rhoose
Bristol Channel
0 kilometres 15
0 miles 10

The rolling hills near Knighton, on the borderlands between Wales and England

KEY

- Motorway
- Major road
- Secondary road
- Minor road
- Scenic route
- Main railway
- Minor railway
- ▲ Summit

A detail of Cardiff Castle's clocktower, part of the ornate embellishments added in the 19th century

Italianate terraces and formal gardens at Powis Castle, adding a Mediterranean air to the Welsh borderlands

Powis Castle ❶

(NT) Welshpool, Powys. ℹ *01938 551944.* 🚆 *Welshpool then bus.* ○ *Apr–Jun & Sep–Oct: Thu–Mon; Jul–Aug: Wed–Mon & public hols; Nov & Mar: Sat & Sun.* 🎫 ♿ *limited.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.castlewales.com/powis

Powis Castle – the spelling is an archaic version of "Powys" – has outgrown its military roots. Despite its sham battlements and dominant site, 1 mile (1.6 km) to the southwest of the town of Welshpool, this red-stone building has served as a country mansion for centuries. It began life in the 13th century as a fortress, built by the princes of Powys to control the border with England.

The castle is entered through one of few surviving medieval features: a gateway, built in 1283 by Owain de la Pole. The gate is flanked by two towers.

The castle's lavish interiors soon banish all thoughts of war. A **Dining Room**, decorated with fine 17th-century panelling and family portraits, was originally designed as the castle's Great Hall. The **Great Staircase**, added in the late 17th century and elaborately decorated with carved fruit and flowers, leads to the main apartments: an early 19th-century library, the panelled **Oak Drawing Room** and the Elizabethan **Long Gallery**, where ornate plasterwork on the fireplace and ceiling date from the 1590s. In the **Blue Drawing Room** there are three 18th-century Brussels tapestries.

The Herbert family bought the property in 1587 and were proud of their Royalist connections; the panelling in the **State Bedroom** bears the royal monogram. Powis Castle was defended for Charles I in the Civil War *(see pp52–3)*, but fell to Parliament in 1644. The 3rd Baron Powis, a supporter of James II, had to flee the country when William and Mary took the throne in 1688 *(see pp52–3)*.

The castle's **Clive Museum** has an exhibition concerning "Clive of India" (1725–74), the general and statesman who helped strengthen British control in India in the mid-18th century. The family's link with Powis Castle was established by the 2nd Lord Clive, who married into the Herbert family and became the Earl of Powis in 1804.

The gardens at Powis are among the best-known in Britain, with their series of elegant Italianate terraces, adorned with statues, niches, balustrades and hanging gardens, all stepped into the steep hillside beneath the castle walls. Created between 1688 and 1722, these are the only formal gardens of this period in Britain that are still kept in their original form *(see pp26–7)*.

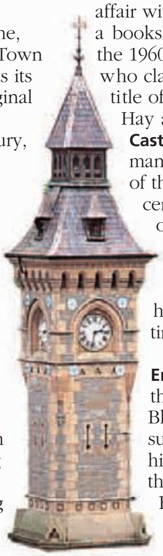
The richly carved 17th-century Great Staircase

Knighton ❷

Powys. 👥 *3,500.* 🚆 ℹ *Offa's Dyke Centre, West St (01547 528753).* ⛺ *Thu.* **www**.offasdyke.demon.co.uk

Knighton's Welsh name, Tref y Clawdd ("The Town on the Dyke"), reflects its status as the only original settlement on **Offa's Dyke**. In the 8th century, King Offa of Mercia (central and southern England) constructed a ditch and bank to mark out his territory, and to enable the enforcement of a Saxon law: "Neither shall a Welshman cross into English land without the appointed man from the other side, who should meet him at the bank and bring him back again without any offence being committed." Some of the best-preserved sections of the 6-m- (20-ft-) high earthwork lie in the hills around Knighton. The Offa's Dyke Footpath runs for 177 miles (285 km) along the border between England and Wales.

Knighton is set on a steep hill, sloping upwards from **St Edward's Church** (1877) with its medieval tower, to the summit, where a castle once stood. The main street leads via the market square, marked by a 19th-century clock tower, along **The Narrows**, a Tudor street with little shops. **The Old House** on Broad Street is a medieval "cruck" house (curved timbers form a frame to support the roof), with a hole in the ceiling instead of a chimney.



Knighton's clock

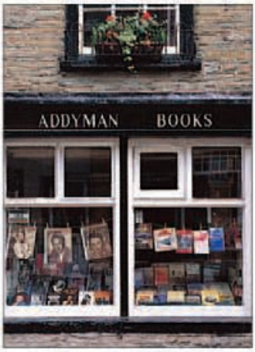
Hay-on-Wye ❸

Powys. 👥 *1,300.* ℹ *Oxford Rd (01497 820144).* ⛺ *Thu.* **www**.hay-on-wye.co.uk

Book-lovers from all over the world come to this quiet border town in the Black Mountains. Hay-on-Wye has over 30 second-hand bookshops stocking millions of titles, and in early summer hosts a prestigious Festival of Literature. The town's love affair with books began when a bookshop was opened in the 1960s by Richard Booth, who claims the (fictitious) title of King of Independent Hay and lives in **Hay Castle**, a 17th-century mansion in the grounds of the original 13th-century castle. Hay's oldest inn, the 16th–century **Three Tuns** on Bridge Street, is still functioning and has an attractive half-timbered façade.

Environs: Hay sits on the approach to the Black Mountains and is surrounded by rolling hills. To the south are the heights of Hay Bluff and the Vale of Ewyas, where the 12th-century ruins of **Llanthony Priory** *(see p469)* retain fine pointed arches.

Hay Castle
Tel *01497 820503.* ○ *daily.*
● *25 Dec.* 📷 *grounds only.* ♿



One of Hay-on-Wye's bookshops

Llandrindod Wells ❹

Powys. 👥 *5,000.* 🚆 ℹ *Memorial Gardens (01597 822600).*
⛺ *farmers' market last Thu of month; Fri.*

Llandrindod is a perfect example of a Victorian town, with canopied streets, delicate wrought ironwork, gabled villas and ornamental parklands. This purpose-built spa town became Wales's premier inland resort of the 19th century. Its sulphur and magnesium spring waters were taken to treat skin complaints and a range of other ailments.

The town now makes every effort to preserve its Victorian character, with a lake and the well-tended **Rock Park Gardens**. The restored 19th-century **Pump Room** in Temple Gardens is where, during the last full week of August, residents don period costume and cars are banned from the town centre.

The **Radnorshire Museum** traces the town's past as one of a string of 19th-century Welsh spas which included Builth, Llangammarch and **Llanwrtyd** (now a pony trekking centre).

Radnorshire Museum
Temple Street. ***Tel*** *01597 824513.*
○ *Phone for opening times.*
● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* 📷 ♿

Victorian architecture on Spa Road, Llandrindod Wells

Craig Goch, one of the original chain of Elan Valley reservoirs

Elan Valley ❺

Powys. 🚆 *Llandrindod.*
ℹ *Rhayader (01597 810898).*
www.elanvalley.org.uk

A string of spectacular reservoirs, the first of the country's man-made lakes, has made this one of Wales's most famous valleys. **Caban Coch, Garreg Ddu, Pen-y-Garreg** and **Craig Goch**, were created between 1892 and 1903 to supply water to Birmingham, 73 miles (117 km) away. They form a chain of lakes about 9 miles (14 km) long, holding 50 billion litres (13 billion gallons) of water. Victorian engineers selected these high moorlands on the Cambrian Mountains, for their high annual rainfall of 1,780 mm (70 inches). The choice created bitter controversy and resentment: more than 100 people had to move from the valley that was flooded in order to create Caban Coch.

Unlike their more utilitarian modern counterparts, these dams were built during an era when decoration was seen as an integral part of any design. Finished in dressed stone, they have an air of grandeur which is lacking in the huge **Claerwen** reservoir, a stark addition built during the early 1950s to double the lakes' capacity. Contained by a 355 m (1,165 ft) dam, it lies 4 miles (6 km) along the B4518 that runs through Elan Valley and offers magnificent views.

The remote moorlands and woodlands surrounding the lakes are an important habitat for wildlife; the red kite can often be seen here. The **Elan Valley Visitors' Centre**, beside the Caban Coch dam, describes the construction of the lakes, as well as the valley's own natural history. **Elan Village**, set beside the centre, is an unusual example of a model workers' village, built during the 1900s to house the waterworks staff. Outside the centre is a statue of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley *(see p222)*, who stayed in the valley at the mansion of Nantgwyllt in 1810 with his wife, Harriet. The house now lies underneath the waters of Caban Coch, along with the rest of the old village. Among the buildings submerged were the village school and a church.

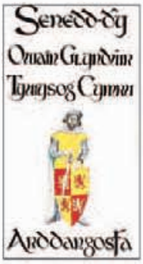
The trail from Machynlleth to Devil's Bridge, near Aberystwyth

Machynlleth ❻

Powys. 👥 *2,200.* 🚆 ℹ *Aberystwyth (01970 612125).* ⛺ *Wed.* **www**.exploremidwales.com

Half-timbered buildings and Georgian façades appear among the grey-stone houses in Machynlleth. It was here that Owain Glyndŵr, Wales's last native leader *(see p436)*, held a parliament in 1404. The restored **Parliament House** has displays on his life and a brass-rubbing centre.

The ornate **Clock Tower**, in the middle of Maengwyn Street, was erected in 1874 by the Marquess of Londonderry to mark the coming of age of his heir, Lord Castlereagh. The Marquess lived in **Plas Machynlleth**, a 17th-century house in parkland off the main street, which is now a centre of Celtic heritage and culture.



Parliament House sign, Machynlleth

Environs: In an old slate quarry 2.5 miles (4 km) to the north, a "village of the future" is run by the **Centre for Alternative Technology**. A water-balanced cliff railway takes summer visitors to view low-energy houses and organic gardens, to see how to make the best of Earth's resources.

🏛 **Parliament House**
Maengwyn St. ***Tel*** *01654 702827.*
○ *Easter–Sep: Mon–Sat.* ♿ 🛍

🏛 **Centre for Alternative Technology** On A487. ***Tel*** *01654 705950.* ○ *daily.* ● *early Jan.* ✋ ☝ ♿ 🍴 🛍 **www**.cat.org.uk

Aberystwyth ❼

Ceredigion. 👥 *11,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *Terrace Rd (01970 612125).*
www.ceredigion.gov.uk

This seaside and university town claims to be the cultural capital of mid-Wales. By the standards of this rural area, "Aber" is a big place, its population increased for much of the year by students.

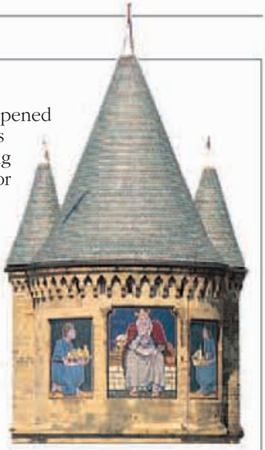
To Victorian travellers, Aberystwyth was the "Biarritz of Wales". There have been no great changes along the promenade, with its gabled hotels, since the 19th century. **Constitution Hill**, a steep outcrop at the northern end, can be scaled in summer on the electric **Cliff Railway**, built in 1896. At the top, in a ***camera obscura***, a lens projects views of the town. The ruined **Aberystwyth Castle** (1277) is located south of the promenade. In the town centre, the **Ceredigion Museum**, set in a former music hall, traces the history of the town.

Buskers on Aberystwyth's seafront

To the northeast of the town centre, **The National Library of Wales**, next to Aberystwyth University, has a valuable collection of ancient Welsh manuscripts.

SAVIN'S HOTEL

When the Cambrian Railway opened in 1864, businessman Thomas Savin put £80,000 into building a new hotel in Aberystwyth for package tourists. The scheme made him bankrupt, but the seafront building, complete with mock-Gothic tower, was bought by campaigners attempting to establish a Welsh university. The "college by the sea" opened in 1872, and is now the Theological College.



Mosaics on the college tower

Environs: During the summer the narrow-gauge Vale of Rheidol Railway runs 12 miles (19 km) to **Devil's Bridge**, where a dramatic series of waterfalls plunges through a wooded ravine and a steep trail leads to the valley floor.

🏛 **Ceredigion Museum**
Terrace Rd. ***Tel*** *01970 633088.* ○ *Mon–Sat.* ● *Good Fri, 25 Dec–2 Jan.* 🔒 ♿ **www**.ceredigion.gov.uk

Aberaeron ⑧

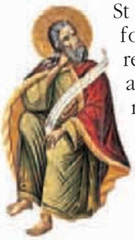
Ceredigion. 👥 *1,500.*
🚆 *Aberystwyth, then bus.*
ℹ *Quay Parade (01545 570602).*
www.tourism.ceredigion.gov.uk

Aberaeron's harbour, lined with Georgian houses, became a trading port and shipbuilding centre in the early 19th century. Its orderly streets were laid out in pre-railway days, when the ports along Cardigan Bay enjoyed considerable wealth. The last boat was built here in 1994 and its harbour is now full of holiday sailors. The harbour can be crossed via a wooden footbridge.

On the quayside, the popular Honey Bee Ice Cream Parlour serves world-renowned ice creams to a loyal clientele. There is also a centre of local crafts in the town, Clos Pengarreg.

Rows of brightly painted Georgian houses lining the purpose-built harbour at Aberaeron

St Davids ❾



Icon of Elijah, south transept

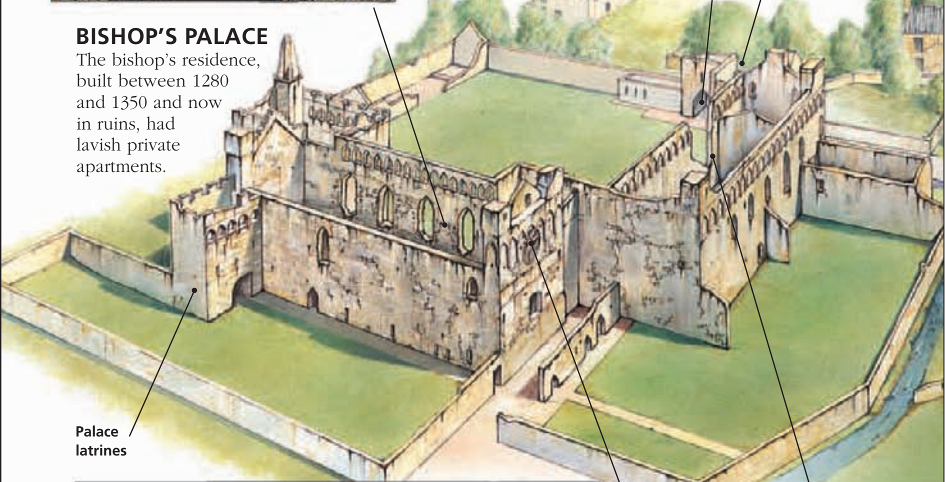
St David, the patron saint of Wales, founded a monastic settlement in this remote corner of southwest Wales in about 550, which became one of the most important Christian shrines. The present cathedral, built in the 12th century, and the Bishop's Palace, added a century later, are set in a grassy hollow below St Davids town, officially Britain's smallest city. The date of St David's death, 1 March, is commemorated throughout Wales.

St Davids' Cathedral, the largest in Wales

★ Great Hall
The open arcade and decorated parapet were added by Bishop Gower (1328–47) to unify different sections of the palace.

BISHOP'S PALACE

The bishop's residence, built between 1280 and 1350 and now in ruins, had lavish private apartments.



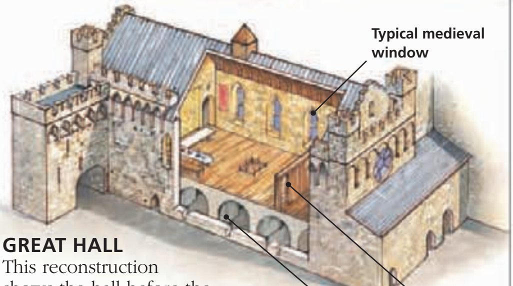
The Private Chapel was a late 14th-century addition, built, like the rest of the palace, over a series of vaults.

Entrance

Palace latrines

Rose window

The Bishop's Hall, smaller than the Great Hall, may have been reserved for private use.



Typical medieval window

Wooden screen

Vault

GREAT HALL

This reconstruction shows the hall before the lead was stripped from the roof. Bishop Barlow, St Davids' first Protestant bishop (1536–48), is thought to have been responsible for the lead's removal.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Great Hall
- ★ Nave Ceiling
- ★ St David's Shrine

★ Nave Ceiling
The roof of the nave is lowered and hidden by an early 16th-century oak ceiling. A beautiful 14th-century rood screen divides the nave from the choir.

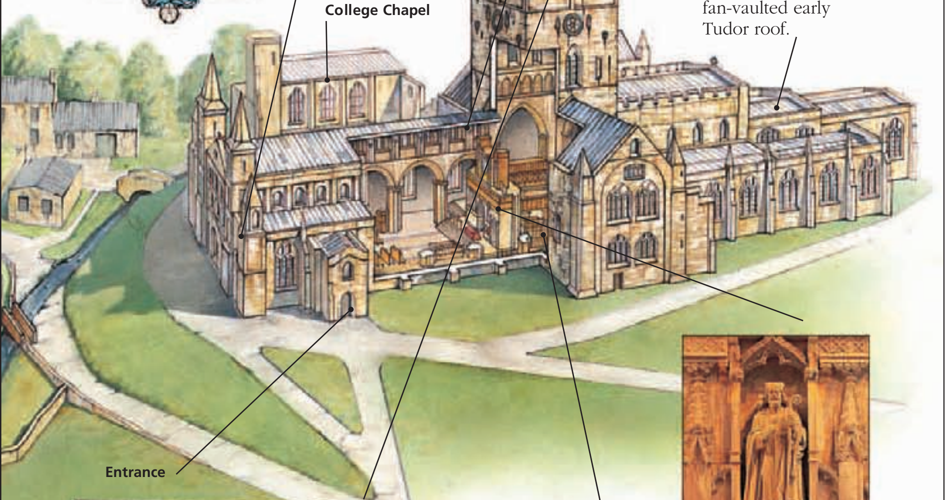
VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Cathedral Close, St Davids.
***Tel** 01437 720199.*
Haverfordwest then bus.
9am–5:30pm daily (Sun: pm).
www. stdavidscathedral.org.uk

CATHEDRAL

St David was one of the founders of the 6th-century monastic movement, so this was an important site of pilgrimage. Three visits here equalled one to Jerusalem.

Stained-Glass Window
In the nave's west end, eight panels, produced in the 1950s, radiate from a central window showing the dove of peace.



Bishop Vaughan's Chapel has a fine fan-vaulted early Tudor roof.

★ St David's Shrine
A statue of the saint is placed near the shrine. Thought to symbolize the Holy Spirit, a dove is said to have landed on David's shoulder as he spoke to a gathering of bishops.

Tower Lantern Ceiling
The medieval roof was decorated with episcopal insignia when restored in the 1870s by Sir George Gilbert Scott.

Sixteenth-Century Choir Stalls
The royal coat of arms on one of the carved choir stalls shows that the sovereign is a member of St Davids' Chapter. There are some interesting misericords (see p341) *in these stalls.*

Tenby ⑩

Pembrokeshire. 👥 *5,000.* 🚂 🚌 ⛴
ℹ *Upper Park Road (01834 842 402).* **www**.pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Tenby has successfully trodden the fine line between over-commercialization and popularity, refusing to submit its historic character to the garish excesses of some seaside towns. Georgian houses overlook its handsome harbour, which is backed by a well-preserved medieval clifftop town of narrow streets and passages. The old town was defended by a headland fortress, now ruined, flanked by two wide beaches and a ring of 13th-century walls. These survive to their full height in places, along with a fortified gateway, the **Five Arches**.

The three-storeyed **Tudor Merchant's House** is a 15th-century relic of Tenby's highly prosperous seafaring days, with original fireplaces and chimneys. There are regular boat trips from the harbour to **Caldey Island**, 3 miles (5 km) offshore, home of a perfume-making monastic community.

Tudor Merchant's House
(NT) Quay Hill.
Tel *01834 842279.*
○ *Mar–Oct: Sun–Fri.* 🖐
🖐 *for pre-booked parties.*

A partly medieval restaurant next to the Tudor Merchant's House

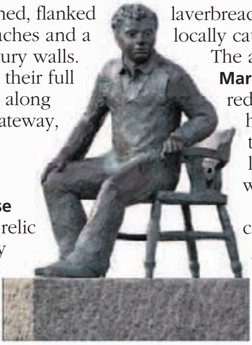
Swansea and the Gower Peninsula ⑪

Swansea. 👥 *230,000.* 🚂 🚌 ⛴
ℹ *Plymouth St (01792 468321).*
⊖ *Mon–Sat.* **www**.swansea.gov.uk

Swansea, Wales's second city, is set along a wide, curving bay. The city centre was rebuilt after heavy bombing in World War II but, despite the modern buildings, a traditional Welsh atmosphere prevails. This is particularly noticeable in the excellent food market, full of Welsh delicacies such as laverbread *(see p606)* and locally caught cockles.

The award-winning **Maritime Quarter** redevelopment has transformed the old docklands, and is worth a visit.

A statue of copper magnate John Henry Vivian (1779–1855) overlooks the marina. The Vivians, a leading Swansea family, founded the **Glynn Vivian Art Gallery**, which has exquisite Swansea pottery and porcelain. Archaeology and Welsh history feature at the **Swansea Museum**, the oldest museum in Wales.



Swansea's most celebrated son, the poet Dylan Thomas

The life and work of local poet Dylan Thomas (1914–53) is celebrated in the **Dylan Thomas Centre**. A permanent exhibition, Man and Myth, includes the original drafts of his poems, letters and memorabilia. His statue overlooks the Maritime Quarter. Thomas spent his childhood in the city's suburbs. **Cwmdonkin Park** was the scene of an early poem, *The Hunchback in the Park,* and its water garden has a memorial stone quoting from his *Fern Hill*.

Swansea's austere **Guildhall** (1934) has a surprisingly rich interior. The huge panels, by Sir Frank Brangwyn (1867–1956), on the theme of the British Empire, were originally painted for the House of Lords.

Picturesque fishermen's cottages at the Mumbles seaside resort

Swansea Bay leads to the **Mumbles**, a popular watersports centre at the gateway to the 19-mile-long (30 km) Gower Peninsula, which in 1956 was the first part of Britain to be declared an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A string of sheltered, south-facing bays leads to Oxwich and Port-Eynon beaches.

Rhossili's enormous beach leads to north Gower and a coastline of low-lying burrows, salt marshlands and cockle beds. The peninsula is littered with ancient sites such as **Parc Le Breose**, a prehistoric burial chamber.

Near Camarthen is the **National Botanic Garden of Wales**, with formal gardens centred on The Great Glasshouse which contains a Mediterranean ecosystem.

Glynn Vivian Art Gallery
Alexandra Rd. ***Tel*** *01792 516900.*
○ *Tue–Sun & public hols.*
♿ *limited.* 🖐 *by arrangement.*
🛍 **www**.glynnviviangallery.org

Swansea Museum
Victoria Rd. ***Tel*** *01792 653763.* ○
Tue–Sun & public hols. ♿ *limited.*
🛍 **www**.swanseaheritage.net

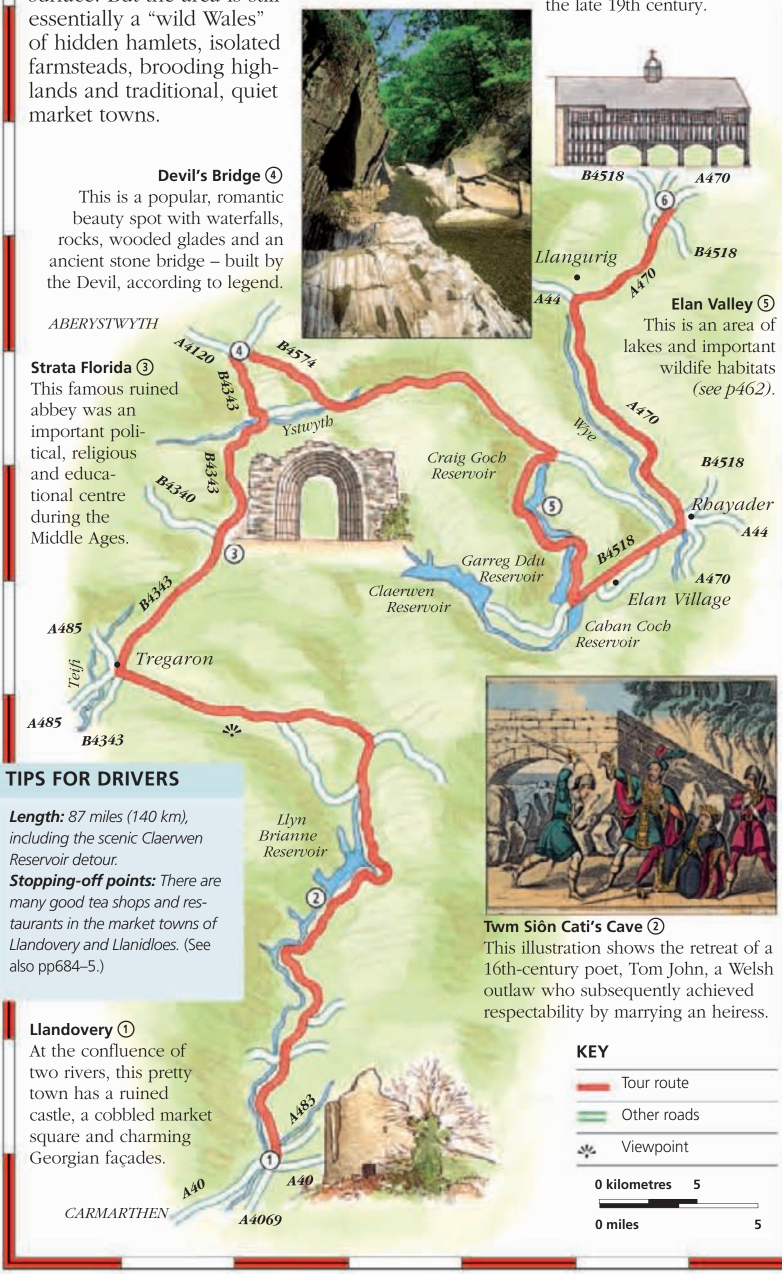
Dylan Thomas Centre
Somerset Pl. ***Tel*** *01792 463980.*
○ *daily.* ♿ 🖐 *by arrangement.*
🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www**.swansea.gov.uk

Guildhall
St Helen's Rd. ***Tel*** *01792 635489.*
○ *Mon–Fri.* ● *public hols.* ♿

National Botanic Garden of Wales
Middleton Hall, Llanarthne.
Tel *01558 668768.* ○ *daily.*
● *25 Dec.* 🖐 ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍
www.gardenofwales.org.uk

Wild Wales Tour ⑫

This tour weaves across the Cambrian Mountains' windswept moors, green hills and high, deserted plateaux. New roads have been laid to the massive Llyn Brianne Reservoir, north of Llandovery, and the old drover's road across to Tregaron has a tarmac surface. But the area is still essentially a "wild Wales" of hidden hamlets, isolated farmsteads, brooding highlands and traditional, quiet market towns.



B4518
A470
⑥
Llangurig
B4518
A470
A44
ABERYSTWYTH
A4120
④
B4574
B4343
Ystwyth
Wye
A470
Craig Goch Reservoir
B4518
B4343
B4340
⑤
Rhayader
A44
③
Garreg Ddu Reservoir
B4518
Claerwen Reservoir
A470
Elan Village
B4343
Caban Coch Reservoir
A485
Teifi
Tregaron
A485
B4343
Llyn Brianne Reservoir
②
A483
①
A40
A40
CARMARTHEN
A4069
KEY
Tour route
Other roads
Viewpoint
0 kilometres 5
0 miles 5

Llanidloes ⑥
The town was a centre of religious and social unrest in the 17th and 18th centuries *(see p437)*. There is a rare example of a free-standing Tudor market hall. The medieval church was restored in the late 19th century.

Devil's Bridge ④
This is a popular, romantic beauty spot with waterfalls, rocks, wooded glades and an ancient stone bridge – built by the Devil, according to legend.

Strata Florida ③
This famous ruined abbey was an important political, religious and educational centre during the Middle Ages.

Elan Valley ⑤
This is an area of lakes and important wildife habitats *(see p462)*.

Twm Siôn Cati's Cave ②
This illustration shows the retreat of a 16th-century poet, Tom John, a Welsh outlaw who subsequently achieved respectability by marrying an heiress.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Length: *87 miles (140 km), including the scenic Claerwen Reservoir detour.*
Stopping-off points: *There are many good tea shops and restaurants in the market towns of Llandovery and Llanidloes.* (See also pp684–5.)

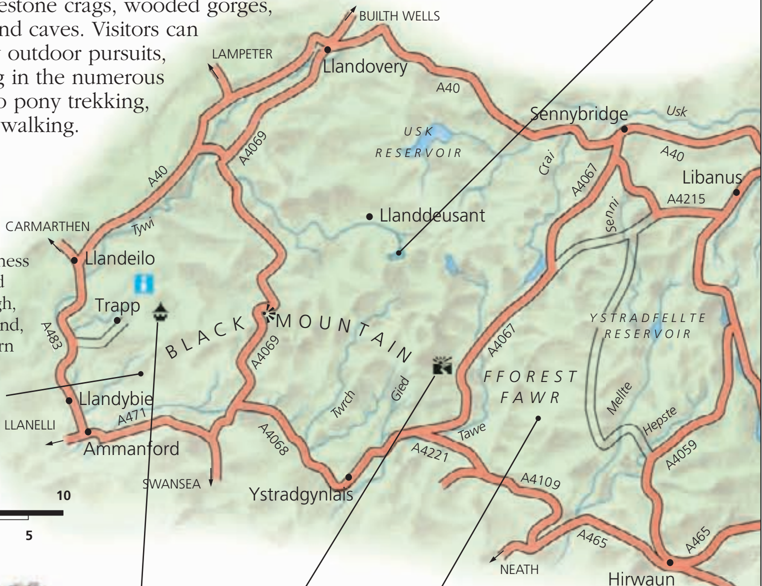
Llandovery ①
At the confluence of two rivers, this pretty town has a ruined castle, a cobbled market square and charming Georgian façades.

Brecon Beacons ⓭

Trekking in the Beacons

The Brecon Beacons National Park covers 520 sq miles (1,345 sq km) from the Wales–England border almost all the way to Swansea. There are four mountain ranges within the park: the Black Mountain (to the west), Fforest Fawr, the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains (to the east). Much of the area consists of high, open country with smooth, grassy slopes on a bedrock of red sandstone. The park's southern rim has limestone crags, wooded gorges, waterfalls and caves. Visitors can enjoy many outdoor pursuits, from fishing in the numerous reservoirs to pony trekking, caving and walking.

Llyn y Fan Fach
This remote, myth-laden glacial lake is a 4 mile (6.5 km) walk from Llanddeusant.


BUILTH WELLS
LAMPETER
Llandovery
A40
USK RESERVOIR
Sennybridge
Usk
A40
Libanus
A4215
A4069
Crai
A4067
Senni
A40
CARMARTHEN
Tywi
Llanddeusant
Llandeilo
Trapp
BLACK MOUNTAIN
YSTRADFELLTE RESERVOIR
A483
A4069
A4067
FFOREST FAWR
Twrch
Gied
Mellte
Hepste
Llandybie
LLANELLI
A471
Ammanford
A4068
Tawe
A4221
A4059
SWANSEA
Ystradgynlais
A4109
A465
A465
NEATH
Hirwaun
0 kilometres 10
0 miles 5

The Black Mountain, a largely unexplored wilderness of knife-edged ridges and high, empty moorland, fills the western corner of the National Park.

Fforest Fawr ("Great Forest") is named after an area that was a medieval royal hunting ground.

Dan-yr-Ogof Caves
A labyrinth of caves runs through the Brecon Beacons. Guided tours of two large caves are offered here.

Carreg Cennen Castle
Spectacularly sited, the ruined medieval fortress of Carreg Cennen (see p438) *stands on a sheer limestone cliff near the village of Trapp.*

KEY

🟥 A road

🟨 B road

═ Minor road

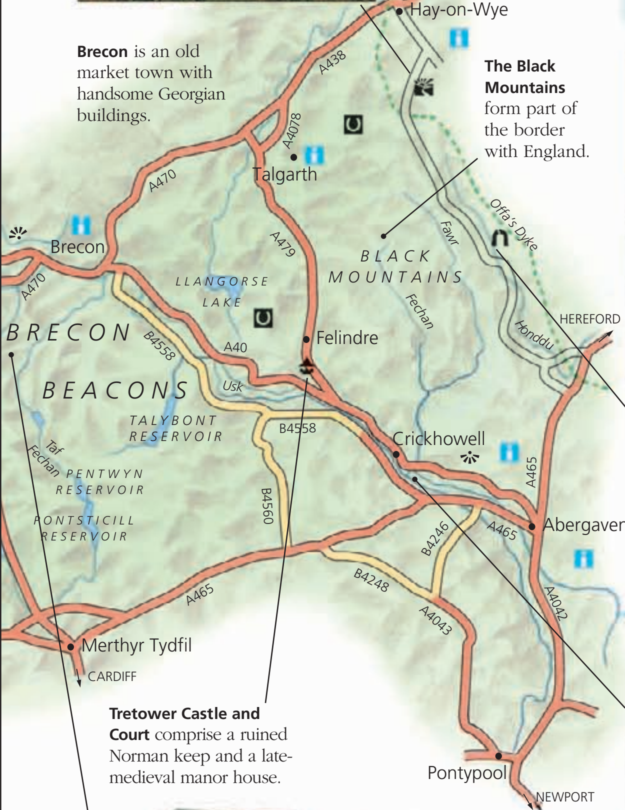
- - Footpath

✳ Viewpoint

Hay Bluff
At 677 m (2,221 ft), Hay Bluff looks out across border country. A narrow mountain road climbs from Hay-on-Wye to the Gospel Pass before dropping to Llanthony.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Powys. 🚆 *Abergavenny.* ℹ *Brecon, Powys.* ***Tel*** *01874 623366.* **Carreg Cennen Castle,** Trapp. ***Tel*** *01558 822291.* ○ *daily.* 💷 **Dan-yr-Ogof Caves,** Abercraf. ***Tel*** *01639 730284.* ○ *Apr-Oct.* **Llanthony Priory,** Llanthony. ***Tel*** *01443 336106.* ○ *daily.* **Tretower Castle**, Crickhowell. ***Tel*** *01874 730279.* ○ *daily.* ● *Nov–Feb.* ♿ 💷 🛍


Hay-on-Wye
A438
A4078
Talgarth
A470
Brecon
A470
A479
BLACK MOUNTAINS
Fawr
Offa's Dyke
LLANGORSE LAKE
BRECON BEACONS
B4558
A40
Usk
Felindre
Fechan
Honddu
HEREFORD
TALYBONT RESERVOIR
B4558
Taf Fechan
PENTWYN RESERVOIR
PONTSTICILL RESERVOIR
B4560
Crickhowell
A465
Abergavenny
A465
B4246
B4248
A4043
A4042
A465
Merthyr Tydfil
CARDIFF
Pontypool
NEWPORT

Brecon is an old market town with handsome Georgian buildings.

The Black Mountains form part of the border with England.

Tretower Castle and Court comprise a ruined Norman keep and a late-medieval manor house.

Llanthony Priory
This 12th-century ruin has simply carved but elegant stonework. In the 19th century a small hotel (still open) was built in part of the priory.

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal
This peaceful waterway, completed in 1812, was once used to transport raw materials between Brecon and Newport. It is now popular with leisure boats.

Pen y Fan
At 886 m (2,907 ft), Pen y Fan is the highest point in South Wales. Its distinctive, flat-topped summit, once a Bronze Age burial ground (see pp42–3), *can be reached by footpaths from Storey Arms on the A470.*

Cardiff ⑭

Cardiff was first occupied by the Romans, who built a fort here in AD 55 *(see pp44–5)*. Little is known of its subsequent history until Robert FitzHamon *(see p472)*, a knight in the service of William the Conqueror, was given land here in 1093. By the 13th century, the settlement was substantial enough to be granted a royal charter, but it remained a quiet country town until the 1830s when the Bute family, who inherited land in the area, began to develop it as a port. By 1913 this was the world's busiest coal-exporting port, profiting from rail links with the South Wales mines. Its wealth paid for grandiose architecture, while the docklands became a raucous boom-town. Cardiff was confirmed as the first Welsh capital in 1955, by which time demand for coal was falling and the docks were in decline. The city is now being transformed by urban renewal programmes.

City Hall's dome, adorned with a dragon, the emblem of Wales

Exploring Cardiff

Cardiff is a city with two focal points. The centre, laid out with Victorian and Edwardian streets and gardens, is the first of these. There is a Neo-Gothic castle and Neo-Classical civic buildings, as well as indoor shopping malls and a 19th-century **covered market**. Canopied arcades, lined with shops, lead off the main streets, the oldest being the **Royal Arcade** of 1858. The **Millennium Stadium** (on the site of Cardiff Arms Park, the first home of Welsh rugby) opened in 1999 with the Rugby World Cup, and is open for tours most days.

To the south of the centre, the docklands are now being transformed into the second focal point by the creation of a freshwater lake and waterfront. **Y Senedd**, which opened in 2006, houses the National Assembly for Wales. Free guided tours are available but booking is essential. Other attractions in the area are **Techniquest**, a hands-on science museum, and the impressive **Wales Millennium Centre**. A leading cultural venue, it stages a range of arts performances including musicals, ballet and stand-up comedy. It is also home to the Welsh National Opera.

The wooden **Norwegian Church** was first erected in 1868 for Norwegian sailors bringing wooden props for use in the coal pits of the South Wales valleys. Once surrounded by warehouses, it was taken apart and rebuilt during the dockland development.

Fireplace detail in the Banqueting Hall, Cardiff Castle

Also in Cardiff Bay, the Red Dragon Centre houses the **Doctor Who Up Close Exhibition**, featuring many of the props and costumes seen in the TV series, which is shot in Cardiff (open daily; www.doctorwhoexhibitions.com). The **Cardiff Bay Visitor Centre** (www.cardiffharbour.com), on the waterfront, offers great views of the bay and displays about the history and development of the area.

Cardiff Castle

See pp472–3.

City Hall and Civic Centre

Cathays Park. ***Tel*** *029 2087 1727.*
○ *Mon–Fri.* ● *public hols.* ♿
www.cardiffcityhall.com

Cardiff's civic centre of Neo-Classical buildings in white Portland stone is set among parks and avenues around Alexandra Gardens. The City Hall (1905), one of its first buildings, is dominated by its 60 m (200 ft) dome and clock

CREU·GWIR IN THESE STONES
FEL·GWYDR HORIZONS
O·FFWRNAIS AWEN

The entrance to the Wales Millennium Centre tower. Members of the public can visit the first-floor Marble Hall, which is furnished with Siena marble columns and statues of Welsh heroes, among them St David, Wales's patron saint *(see pp464–5)*. Cardiff University is based in the Civic Centre.

🏛 National Museum Cardiff
Cathays Park. ***Tel*** *029 2039 7951.*
○ *Tue–Sun, public hols.* ● *1, 2 Jan & 24, 25 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.museumwales.ac.uk

Opened in 1927, the museum occupies an impressive civic building with a colonnaded portico, guarded by a statue of David Lloyd George *(see p437)*. The art collection is among the finest in Europe, with works on display by Renoir, Monet and Van Gogh.

Statue of Welsh politician David Lloyd George

🏛 Craft in the Bay
The Flourish, Lloyd George Ave, Cardiff Bay. ***Tel*** *029 2048 4611.*
○ *10:30am–5:30pm daily.* ♿ ☕

An extensive craft gallery, organized by the Makers' Guild in Wales, opened here in June 2002. The building now houses a wide variety of craft displays and demonstrations, including textile weaving and ceramic making.

Environs: Established during the 1940s at St Fagans, on the western edge of the city, the open-air **St Fagans' National History Museum** was one of the first of its kind. Buildings from all over Wales, including workers' terraced cottages, farmhouses, a tollhouse, row of shops, chapel and old schoolhouse have been carefully reconstructed within the 40-ha (100-acre) parklands, along with a recreated Celtic village. There is also a Tudor mansion which can be visited, boasting its own beautiful gardens in the grounds.

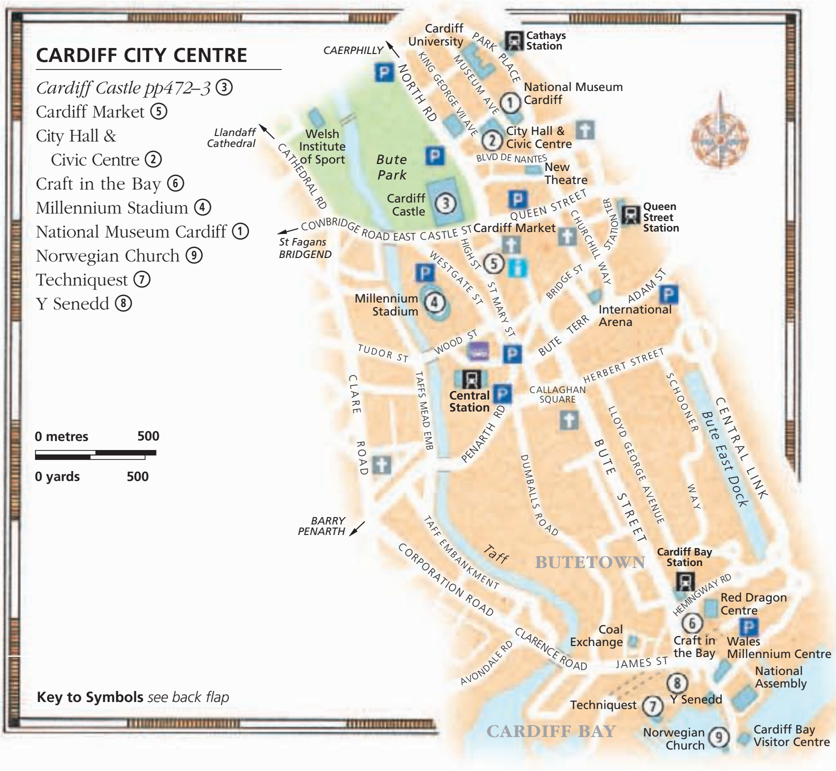
Llandaff Cathedral lies in a deep, grassy hollow beside the River Taf at Llandaff, 2 miles (3 km) northwest of the city centre. The cathedral was first a medieval building, occupying the site of a 6th-century monastic community.

Restored after suffering severe bomb damage during World War II, it was eventually reopened in 1957 with the addition of Sir Jacob Epstein's huge, stark statue, *Christus,* which is mounted on a concrete arch.

🏛 St Fagans' National History Museum
St Fagans. ***Tel*** *029 2057 3500.*
○ *daily.* ♿ 🍴
www.museumwales.ac.uk

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Cardiff. 👥 *321,000.* ✈ *Rhoose.*
🚆 *Central Sq.* 🚌 *Wood St.*
ℹ *The Hayes (0870 121 1258).*
🎭 *Cardiff Festival: Jul, Aug.*
🛒 *daily.* **www**.visitcardiff.com

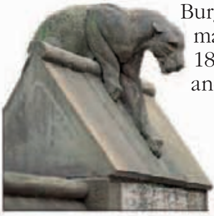


CARDIFF CITY CENTRE
Cardiff Castle pp472–3 ③
Cardiff Market ⑤
City Hall & Civic Centre ②
Craft in the Bay ⑥
Millennium Stadium ④
National Museum Cardiff ①
Norwegian Church ⑨
Techniquest ⑦
Y Senedd ⑧
0 metres 500
0 yards 500
Key to Symbols see back flap
CAERPHILLY
Cardiff University
Cathays Station
PARK PLACE
MUSEUM AVE
KING GEORGE V DRIVE
NORTH RD
National Museum Cardiff
Llandaff Cathedral
Welsh Institute of Sport
CATHEDRAL RD
Bute Park
City Hall & Civic Centre
BLVD DE NANTES
New Theatre
Cardiff Castle
QUEEN STREET
Queen Street Station
CHURCHILL WAY
STATION TER
COWBRIDGE ROAD EAST
CASTLE ST
Cardiff Market
St Fagans BRIDGEND
HIGH ST
WESTGATE ST
ST MARY ST
BRIDGE ST
ADAM ST
Millennium Stadium
International Arena
BUTE TERR
TUDOR ST
WOOD ST
Central Station
CALLAGHAN SQUARE
HERBERT STREET
CLARE ROAD
TAFFS MEAD EMB
PENARTH RD
DUMBALLS ROAD
BUTE STREET
LLOYD GEORGE AVENUE
SCHOONER WAY
CENTRAL LINK
Bute East Dock
BARRY PENARTH
TAFF EMBANKMENT
CORPORATION ROAD
Taff
BUTETOWN
Cardiff Bay Station
HEMINGWAY RD
Red Dragon Centre
Coal Exchange
Craft in the Bay
Wales Millennium Centre
CLARENCE ROAD
JAMES ST
AVONDALE RD
National Assembly
Y Senedd
Techniquest
CARDIFF BAY
Norwegian Church
Cardiff Bay Visitor Centre

Cardiff Castle

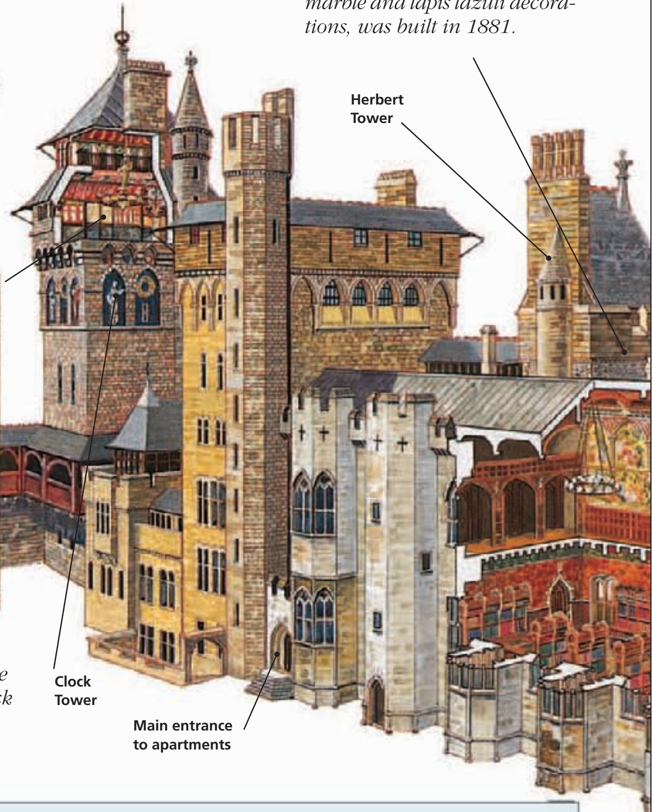
Cardiff Castle began life as a Roman fort, whose remains are separated from later work by a band of red stone. A keep was built within the Roman ruins in the 12th century. Over the following 700 years, the castle passed to several powerful families and eventually to John Stuart, son of the Earl of Bute, in 1776. His great-grandson, the 3rd Marquess of Bute, employed the "eccentric genius", architect William Burges, who created an ornate mansion between 1869 and 1881, rich in medieval images and romantic detail.

Arab Room
The gilded ceiling, with Islamic marble and lapis lazuli decorations, was built in 1881.



Animal Wall
A lion and other creatures guard the wall to the west of the castle. They were added between 1885 and 1930.

★ Summer Smoking Room
This was part of a complete bachelor suite in the Clock Tower, that also included a Winter Smoking Room.



TIMELINE

AD 75 Roman fort constructed

1093 First Norman fort built by Robert FitzHamon of Gloucester

1107 Castle inherited by Mabel FitzHamon, whose husband is made Lord of Glamorgan

1183 Castle damaged during Welsh uprising

1308–1414 Despenser family holds castle

1423–49 Beauchamp family adds the Octagon Tower and Great Hall ceiling

1445–1776 Castle passes in turn to Nevilles, Tudors and Herberts

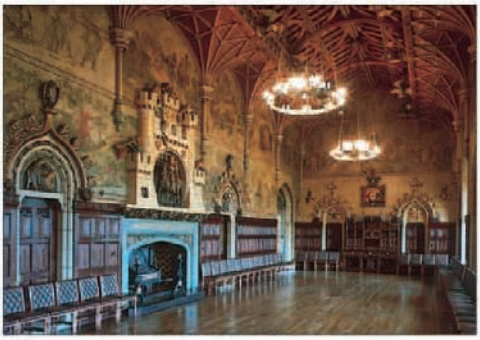
1776 Bute family acquires the castle

1869 3rd Marquess of Bute begins reconstruction

1947 The castle is given in trust to the city of Cardiff

1000 1200 1400 1600 1800

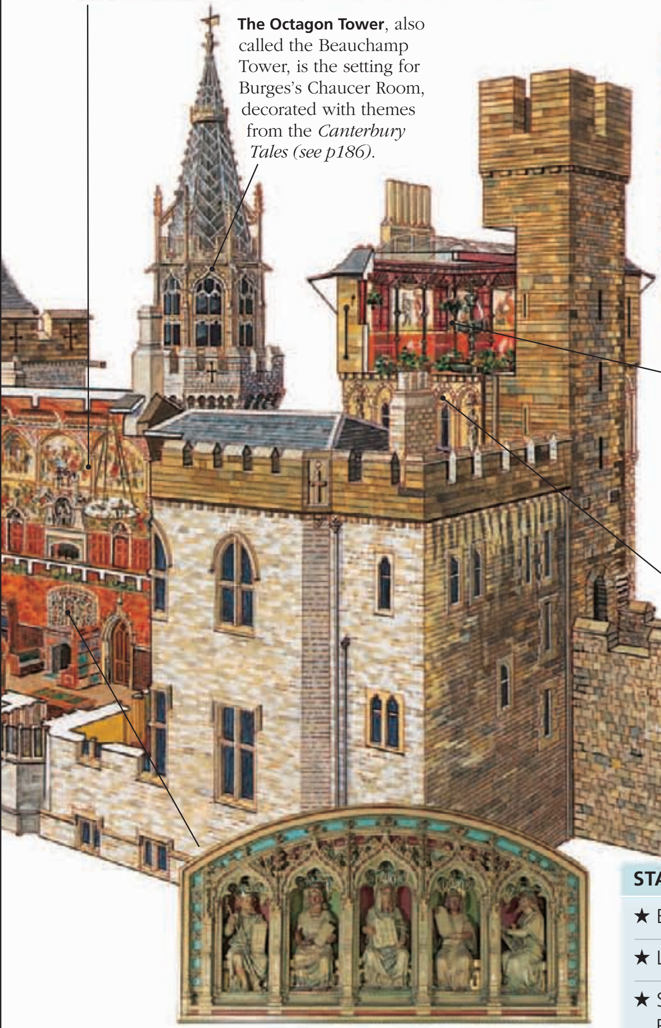
Chaucer Room wall detail



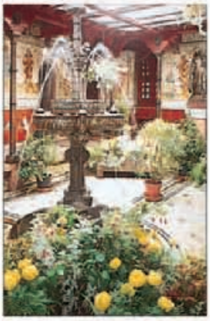
VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Castle St, Cardiff. ***Tel*** *029-2087 8100.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 9am–6pm daily; Nov–Feb: 9:30am–5pm daily.* ♿ ☕ 🛍
www.cardiffcastle.com

★ Banqueting Hall
The design and decoration of this room depicts the castle's history, making impressively ingenious use of the murals and castellated fireplace.



The Octagon Tower, also called the Beauchamp Tower, is the setting for Burges's Chaucer Room, decorated with themes from the *Canterbury Tales (see p186).*



★ Roof Garden
Using tiles, shrubs and a central fountain, Burges aimed to create a Mediterranean feel in this indoor garden, turning it into the crowning glory of the castle's apartments.

The Bute Tower had a suite of private rooms added in 1873, including a dining room, bedroom and sitting room.

★ Library
Carved figures representing ancient characters of Greek, Assyrian, Hebrew and Egyptian alphabets decorate the library's chimneypiece.

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Banqueting Hall
- ★ Library
- ★ Summer Smoking Room
- ★ Roof Garden

Remains of Caerleon's amphitheatre, built in the 2nd century

Caerleon ⑮

Newport (Gwent). 👥 *11,000.*
ℹ *5 High St (01633 422656).*
www.caerleon-tourism.org

Together with York *(see pp404–5)* and Chester *(see pp310–11)*, Caerleon was one of only three fortress settlements in Britain built for the Romans' elite legionary troops. From AD 74 Caerleon (*Isca* to the Romans, after the River Usk, which flows beside the town) was home to the 2nd Augustan Legion, which had been sent to Wales to crush the native Silures tribe. The remains of their base now lie between the modern town and the river.

An altar at Caerleon's Legion Museum

The excavations at Caerleon are of great social and military significance. The Romans built not just a fortress for their crack 5,500-strong infantry division but a complete town to service their needs, including a stone amphitheatre. Judging by the results of the excavation work carried out since the archaeologist Sir Mortimer Wheeler unearthed the amphitheatre in 1926, Caerleon is one of the largest and most important Roman military sites in Europe. The defences enclosed an area of 20 ha (50 acres), with 64 rows of barracks, arranged in pairs, a hospital, and a bath-house complex.

Outside the settlement, the amphitheatre's large stone foundations have survived in an excellent state of preservation. Six thousand spectators could enjoy the blood sports and gladiators' combat.

More impressive still is the fortress baths complex, which opened to the public in the mid-1980s. The baths were designed to bring all the home comforts to an army posted to barbaric Britain. The Roman troops could take a dip in the open-air swimming pool, play sports in the exercise yard or covered hall, or enjoy a series of hot and cold baths.

Nearby are the foundations of the only Roman legionary barracks on view in Europe. The many excavated artifacts, including a collection of engraved gemstones, are displayed at the **National Roman Legion Museum**.

🏛 National Roman Legion Museum
High St. ***Tel*** *01633 423134.* ○ *Mon–Sat, Sun (pm).* ● *1 Jan, 24–26 Dec.* ♿ 🛍 **www**.nmgw.ac.uk

Big Pit Mining Museum, reminder of a vanished industrial society

Blaenafon ⑯

Torfaen. 👥 *6,000.* ℹ *Monmouth Rd, Abergavenny (01873 853254).*
www.blaenafontic.com

Commercial coal-mining has now all but ceased in the South Wales valleys – an area which only 100 years ago was gripped by the search for its "black gold". Though coal is no longer produced at **Big Pit** in Blaenafon, the **Mining Museum** provides a vivid reminder of this tough industry. The Big Pit closed as a working mine in 1980, and opened three years later as a museum. Visitors follow a marked-out route around the mine's surface workings to the miners' baths, the blacksmith's forge, the workshops and the engine house. There is also a replica of an underground gallery, where mining methods are explained. But the climax of any visit to Big Pit is beneath the ground. Kitted out with helmets, lamps and safety batteries, visitors descend by cage 90 m (300 ft) down the mineshaft and then are guided by ex-miners on a tour of the underground workings and pit ponies' stables.

Blaenafon also has remains of the iron-smelting industry. Across the valley from Big Pit stand the 18th-century smelting furnaces and workers' cottages that were once part of the **Blaenavon Ironworks**, and which are now a museum.

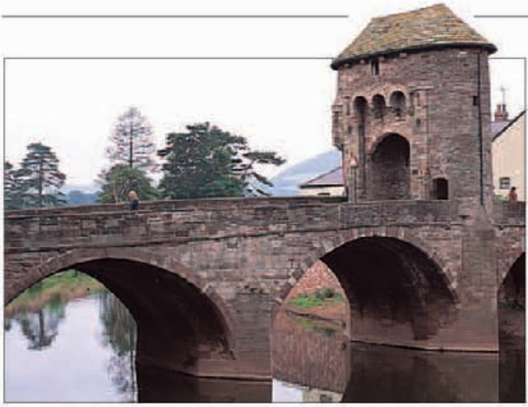
🏛 Big Pit Mining Museum
Blaenafon. ***Tel*** *01495 790311.* ○ *mid-Feb–Nov: daily; Dec & Jan: phone for details.* ♿ *phone first.* ☞ ☕ 🛍

🏛 Blaenavon Ironworks
North St. ***Tel*** *01495 792615.*
○ *mid-Mar–Oct: daily.* 🎧 ☞ 🛍

Monmouth ⑰

Monmouthshire (Gwent). 👥 *12,000.*
🚌 ℹ *Priory St (01600 713899).* ⊖ *Fri, Sat.* **www**.visitwyevalley.com

This market town, which sits at the confluence of the Wye and Monnow rivers, has many historical associations. The 11th-century castle, behind Agincourt Square, is in ruins but the **Regimental Museum**,



Monnow Bridge in Monmouth, once a watchtower and jail

beside it, remains open to the public. The castle was the birthplace of Henry V *(see p49)* in 1387. Statues of Henry V (on the façade of Shire Hall) and Charles Stewart Rolls stand in the Square. Rolls, born at nearby Hendre, co-founded Rolls-Royce cars, and died in a flying accident in 1910.

Lord Horatio Nelson *(see p54)*, the famous admiral, visited Monmouth in 1802. An excellent collection of Nelson memorabilia, gathered by Lady Llangattock, mother of Charles Rolls, is displayed at the **Nelson Museum**.

Monmouth was the county town of the old Monmouthshire. The wealth of elegant Georgian buildings, including the elaborate **Shire Hall**, which dominates Agincourt Square, reflect its former status. The most famous architectural feature in Monmouth is **Monnow Bridge**, a narrow 13th-century gateway on its western approach, thought to be the only surviving fortified bridge gate in Britain.

For a lovely view over the town, climb the Kymin, a 256 m (840 ft) hill crowned by a **Naval Temple** built in 1801.

🏰 Monmouth Castle and Regimental Museum

The Castle. ***Tel*** *01600 772175.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily (pm); Nov–Mar: Sat & Sun (pm).* ● *25 Dec.* ♿ **www**.monmouthcastlemuseum.org.uk

🏛 Nelson Museum

Priory St. ***Tel*** *01600 710630.* ○ *daily (Sun: pm).* ♿ 🛍

Tintern Abbey ⓲

Monmouthshire (Gwent). ***Tel*** *01291 689251.* 🚉 *Chepstow then bus.* ○ *daily* ● *24–26 Dec, 1 Jan.* 🛍 ✋ ♿ **www**.cadw.wales.gov.uk

Ever since the 18th century, travellers have been enchanted by Tintern's setting in the steep and wooded Wye Valley and by the majestic ruins of its abbey. Poets were often inspired by the scene. Wordsworth's sonnet, *Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey*, embodied his romantic view of landscape:

once again
Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs,
That on a wild, secluded scene impress
Thoughts of more deep seclusion

The abbey was founded in 1131 by Cistercian monks, who cultivated the surrounding lands (now forest), and developed it as an influential religious centre. By the 14th century this was the richest abbey in Wales, but along with other monasteries it was dissolved in 1536. Its skeletal ruins are now roofless and exposed, the soaring arches and windows giving them a poignant grace and beauty.

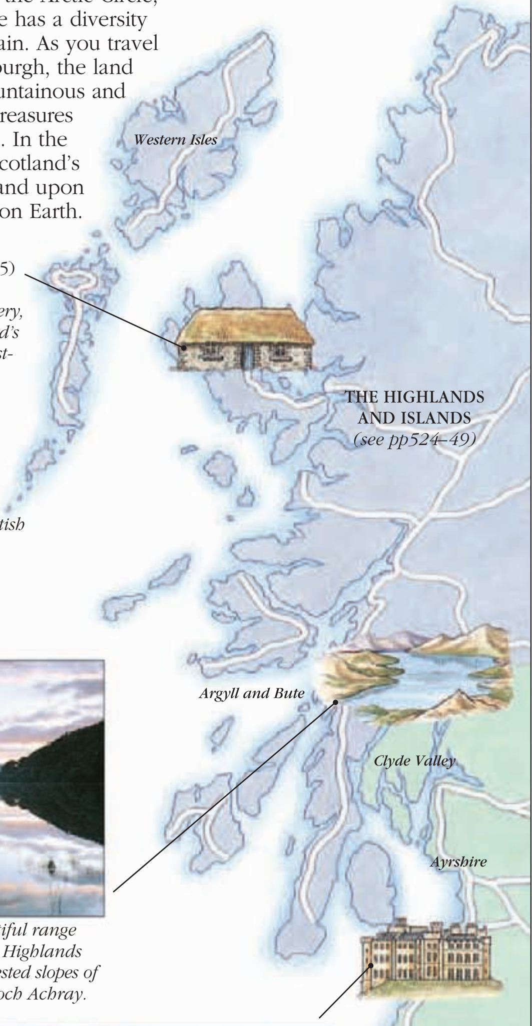
Tintern Abbey in the Wye Valley, in the past a thriving centre of religion and learning, now a romantic ruin

SCOTLAND

INTRODUCING SCOTLAND 478–489
THE LOWLANDS 490–523
THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS 524–549

Scotland at a Glance

Stretching from the rich farmlands of the Borders to a chain of isles only a few degrees south of the Arctic Circle, the Scottish landscape has a diversity without parallel in Britain. As you travel northwest from Edinburgh, the land becomes more mountainous and its archaeological treasures more numerous. In the far northwest, Scotland's earliest relics stand upon the oldest rock on Earth.

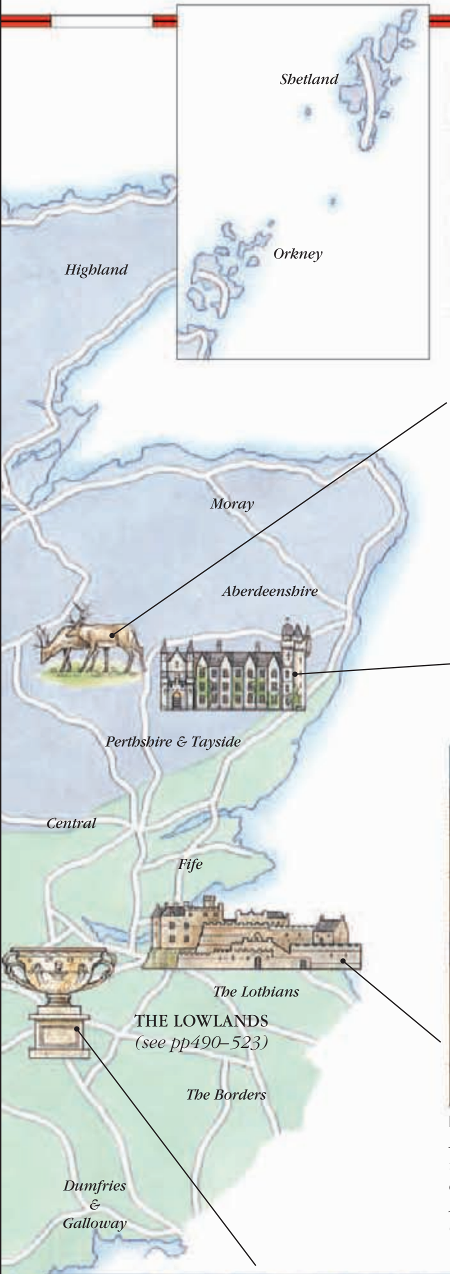


Skye (see pp534–5) *renowned for its dramatic scenery, has one of Scotland's most striking coastlines. On the east coast, a stream plunges over Kilt Rock, a cliff of hexagonal basalt columns named after its likeness to an item of Scottish national dress.*

The Trossachs (see pp494–5) *are a beautiful range of hills straddling the border between the Highlands and the Lowlands. At their heart, the forested slopes of Ben Venue rise above the still waters of Loch Achray.*

Culzean Castle (see pp522–3) *stands on a cliff's edge on the Firth of Clyde, amid an extensive country park. One of the jewels of the Lowlands, Culzean is a magnificent showcase of work by the Scottish-born architect, Robert Adam* (see p28).

◁ **Loch Lomond, the Lowlands**


Shetland
Orkney
Highland
Moray
Aberdeenshire
Perthshire & Tayside
Central
Fife
The Lothians
THE LOWLANDS
(see pp490–523)
The Borders
Dumfries
&
Galloway

The Cairngorms (see pp544–45) *cover an area prized for its beauty and diversity of wildlife, though there are also many historical relics to be found, such as this early 18th-century arch at Carrbridge.*

Royal Deeside (see pp540–41) *in the Grampians has been associated with British royalty since Queen Victoria bought Balmoral Castle in 1852.*

Edinburgh (see pp504–11) *is the capital of Scotland. Between its medieval castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse stretches the Royal Mile – a concentration of historic sights, ranging from the old Scottish Parliament buildings to the house of John Knox. Georgian terraces predominate in the New Town.*

The Burrell Collection (see pp520–21), *on the southern outskirts of Glasgow, is a museum of some of the city's greatest art treasures. It is housed in a spacious, glass building opened in 1983.*

0 kilometres 50

0 miles 50

A PORTRAIT OF SCOTLAND

From the grassy hills of the Borders to the desolate Cuillin Ridge of Skye, the landscape of Scotland is breathtaking in its variety. Lonely glens, sparkling lochs and ever-changing skies give the land a challenging character, which is reflected in the qualities of the Scottish people. Tough and self-reliant, they have made some of Britain's finest soldiers, its boldest explorers and most astute industrialists.

A hammer-thrower at the Braemar Games

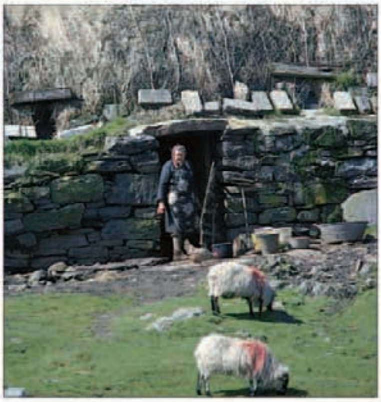
The Scots are proud of their separate identity and their own systems of law and education and, in 1998, voted overwhelmingly for their own parliament. Many Scots welcomed this as a long-awaited reversal of the Act of Union that united the English and Scottish parliaments in 1707. But despite their national pride, they are not a homogeneous people, the main division is between traditionally Gaelic-speaking Highlanders, and the Lowlanders who spoke Scots, a form of Middle English which is now extinct. Today, though Gaelic survives (chiefly in the Western Isles), most people speak regional dialects or richly accented English. Many Scottish surnames derive from Gaelic: the prefix "mac" means "son of". A Norse heritage can be found in the far north, where Shetlanders welcome the annual return of the sun during the Viking fire festival, Up Helly Aa.

The Viking festival, Up Helly Aa, in Lerwick, Shetland

Edinburgh bagpiper

In the 16th century, a suspicion of authority and dislike of excessive flamboyance attracted many Scots to the Presbyterian church with its absence of bishops and its stress on simple worship. The Presbyterian Church of Scotland was established in 1689, though a substantial Catholic minority remained which today predominates in the crofting (small-scale farming) communities of the Western Isles. Now sparsely populated, the Isles preserve a rural culture that once dominated the Highlands, a region that is the source of much that is distinctively Scottish. The clan system originated there, along with the tartans, the bagpipes and such unique sports as tossing the caber – a large tree trunk. Highland sports, along with traditional dances, are still performed at annual games *(see p64).*

Resourcefulness has always been a prominent Scottish virtue, and Scotland has produced a disproportionately high number of Britain's geniuses. James Watt designed the first effective steam engine to power the Industrial Revolution, while Adam Smith became the 18th century's most influential economist. In the 19th century, James Simpson discovered the anaesthetic qualities of



A traditional stone croft on the Isle of Lewis

chloroform, James Young developed the world's first oil refinery and Alexander Bell revolutionized communications by inventing the telephone. The 20th century saw one of the greatest advances in medicine with the discovery of penicillin by Alexander Fleming.

The Scots are also known for being shrewd businessmen, and have always been prominent in finance: both the Bank of England and the Royal Bank of France were founded by Scots, while Andrew Carnegie created one of 19th century-America's biggest business empires.

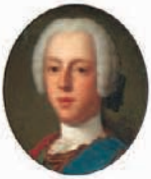
Detail of Edinburgh's Festival Fringe office

With some of the harshest weather conditions in Europe it is perhaps less surprising that Scotland has bred numerous explorers, including polar explorer William Speirs Bruce and African missionary David Livingstone. There is also a strong intellectual and literary tradition, from the 18th-century philosopher David Hume, through novelists Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson, to the poetry of Robert Burns. Today Scotland hosts a variety of arts festivals, such as Edinburgh's.

With a population density only one-fifth of England and Wales, Scotland has vast tracts of untenanted land which offer numerous outdoor pleasures. It is richly stocked with game, and the opening of the grouse season on 12 August is a highlight on the social calendar. Fishing and hill-walking are popular and in winter thousands flock to the Cairngorms and Glencoe for skiing. Though the weather may be harsher than elsewhere, the Scots will claim that the air is purer – and that enjoying rugged conditions is what distinguishes them from their soft southern neighbours.

The blue waters of Loch Achray in the heart of the Trossachs, north of Glasgow

The History of Scotland



Bonnie Prince Charlie, by G Dupré

Since the Roman invasion of Britain, Scotland's history has been characterized by its resistance to foreign domination. The Romans never conquered the area, and when the Scots extended their kingdom to its present boundary in 1018, a long era of conflict began with England. After many wars, the Scots finally accepted union with the "auld enemy": first with the union of crowns, and then with the Union of Parliament in 1707. In 1999 the inauguration of the Scottish Parliament was a dramatic change.

An elaborately carved Pictish stone at Aberlemno, Angus

EARLY HISTORY

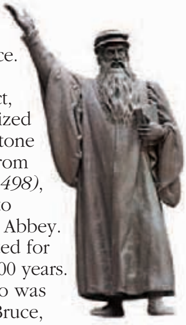
There is much evidence in Scotland of important prehistoric population centres, particularly in the Western Isles, which were peopled mostly by Picts who originally came from the Continent. By the time Roman Governor Julius Agricola invaded in AD 81, there were at least 17 independent tribes, including the Britons in the southwest, for him to contend with.

The Romans reached north to the Forth and Clyde valleys, but the Highlands deterred them from going further. By 120, they had retreated to the line where the Emperor Hadrian had built his wall to keep the Picts at bay (not far from today's border). By 163 the Romans had retreated south for the last time. The Celtic influence began when "Scots" arrived from Ireland in the 6th century, bringing the Gaelic language with them.

The Picts and Scots united under Kenneth McAlpin in 843, but the Britons remained separate until 1018, when they became part of the Scottish kingdom.

THE ENGLISH CLAIM

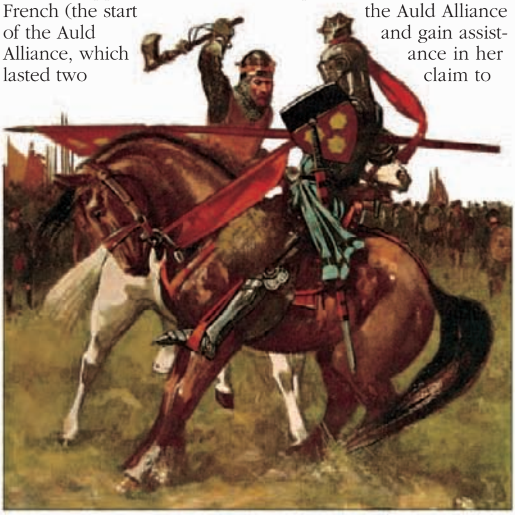
The Norman Kings regarded Scotland as part of their territory but seldom pursued the claim. William the Lion of Scotland recognized English sovereignty by the Treaty of Falaise (1174), though English control never spread to the northwest. In 1296 William Wallace, supported by the French (the start of the Auld Alliance, which lasted two centuries), began the long war of independence. During this bitter conflict, Edward I seized the sacred Stone of Destiny from Scone *(see p498)*, and took it to Westminster Abbey. The war lasted for more than 100 years. Its great hero was Robert the Bruce, who defeated the English in 1314 at Bannockburn. The English held the upper hand after that, even though the Scots would not accept their rule.



John Knox statue in Edinburgh

THE ROAD TO UNION

The seeds of union between the crowns were sown in 1503 when James IV of Scotland married Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII. When her brother, Henry VIII, came to the throne, James sought to assert independence but was defeated and killed at Flodden Field in 1513. His granddaughter, Mary, Queen of Scots *(see p511)*, married the French Dauphin in order to cement the Auld Alliance and gain assistance in her claim to



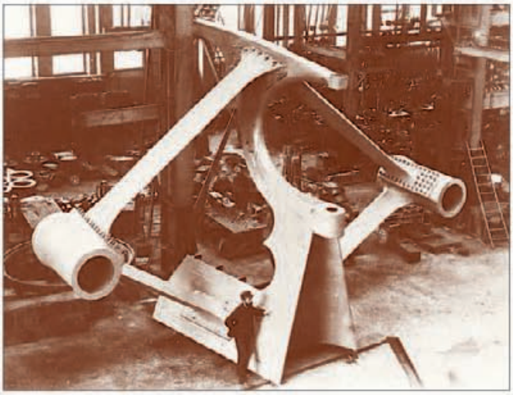
Bruce in Single Combat at Bannockburn (1906) by John Hassall the throne of her English cousin, Elizabeth I. She had support from the Catholics wanting to see an end to Protestantism in England and Scotland. However, fiery preacher John Knox won support for the Protestants and established the Presbyterian Church in 1560. Mary's Catholicism led to the loss of her Scottish throne in 1568, and her subsequent flight to England, following defeat at Langside. Finally, after nearly 20 years of imprisonment she was executed for treason by Elizabeth in 1587.

UNION AND REBELLION

On Elizabeth I's death in 1603, Mary's son, James VI of Scotland, succeeded to the English throne and became James I, king of both countries. Thus the crowns were united, though it was 100 years before the formal Union of Parliaments in 1707. During that time, religious differences within the country reached boiling point. There were riots when the Catholic-influenced Charles I restored bishops to the Church of Scotland and authorized the printing of a new prayer book. This culminated in the signing, in Edinburgh in 1638, of the National Covenant, a document that condemned all Catholic doctrines. Though the Covenanters were suppressed, the Protestant William of Orange took over the English throne in 1688 and the crown passed out of Scottish hands.

Articles of Union between England and Scotland, 1707

In 1745, Bonnie Prince Charlie *(see p535)*, descended from the Stuart kings, tried to seize the throne from the Hanoverian George II. He marched far into England, but was driven back and defeated at Culloden field *(see p537)* in 1746.


The factories on Clydeside, once creators of the world's greatest ships

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE

In the late 18th and 19th centuries, technological progress transformed Scotland from a nation of crofters to an industrial powerhouse. In the notorious Highland Clearances *(see p531)*, from the 1780s on, landowners ejected tenants from their smallholdings and gave the land over to sheep and other livestock. The first ironworks was established in 1760 and was soon followed by coal mining, steel production and shipbuilding on the Clyde. Canals were cut, railways and bridges built.

A strong socialist movement developed as workers sought to improve their conditions. Keir Hardie, an Ayrshire coal miner, in 1892 became the first socialist elected to parliament, and in 1893 founded the Independent Labour Party. The most enduring symbol of this time is the spectacular Forth rail bridge *(see p502)*.

SCOTLAND TODAY

Although the status of the country appeared to have been settled in 1707, a strong nationalist sentiment remained and was heightened by the Depression of the 1920s and '30s which had severe effects on the heavily industrialized Clydeside. This was when the Scottish National Party formed, advocating self-rule. The Nationalists asserted themselves in 1950 by stealing the Stone of Scone from Westminister Abbey.

The discovery of North Sea oil in 1970 encouraged a nationalist revival and, in 1979, the Government promised to establish a separate assembly if 40 per cent of the Scottish electorate endorsed the plan in a referendum. This figure was finally surpassed in 1998, and the Scottish Parliament was duly inaugurated in 1999.

A North Sea oil rig, helping to provide prosperity in the 1970s

Clans and Tartans

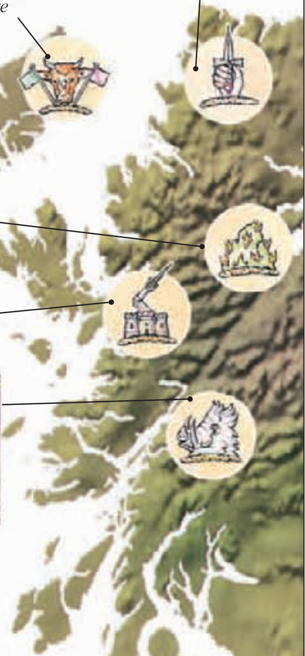
The clan system, by which Highland society was divided into tribal groups led by autocratic chiefs, can be traced to the 12th century, when clans were already known to wear the chequered wool cloth later called tartan. All members of the clan bore the name of their chief, but not all were related by blood. Though they had noble codes of hospitality, the clansmen had to be warriors to protect their herds, as can be seen from their mottoes. After the Battle of Culloden *(see p537)*, all the clan lands were forfeited to the Crown, and the wearing of tartan was banned for nearly 100 years.

The Mackays, *also known as the Clan Morgan, won lasting renown during the Thirty Years War.*

The MacLeods *are of Norse heritage. The clan chief still lives in Dunvegan Castle, Skye* (see p534).

The MacDonalds *were the most powerful of all the clans, holding the title of Lords of the Isles.*

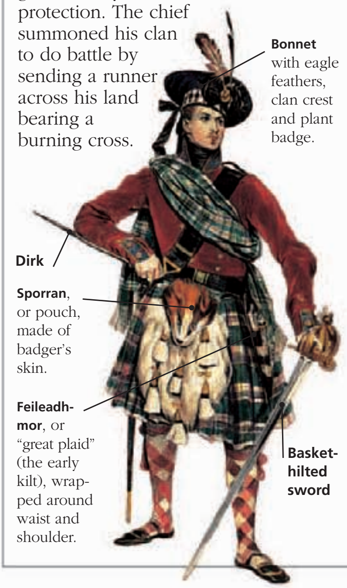
The Mackenzies *received much of the lands of Kintail* (see p530) *from David II in 1362.*



The Campbells *were a widely feared clan who fought the Jacobites in 1746* (see p537).

CLAN CHIEF

The chief was the clan's patriarch, judge and leader in war, commanding absolute loyalty from his clansmen who gave military service in return for his protection. The chief summoned his clan to do battle by sending a runner across his land bearing a burning cross.



Bonnet with eagle feathers, clan crest and plant badge.

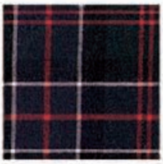
Dirk

Sporran, or pouch, made of badger's skin.

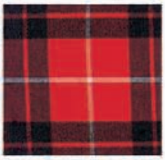
Feileadh-mor, or "great plaid" (the early kilt), wrapped around waist and shoulder.

Basket-hilted sword

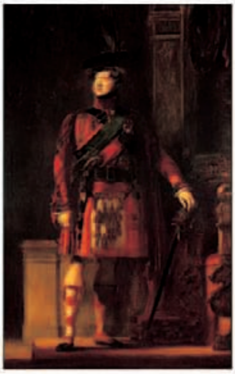
The Black Watch, *raised in 1729 to keep peace in the Highlands, was one of the Highland regiments in which the wearing of tartan survived. After 1746, civilians were punished by exile for up to seven years for wearing tartan.*



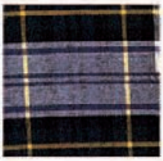
The Sinclairs *came from France in the 11th century and became Earls of Caithness in 1455.*



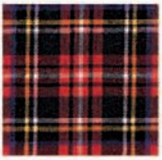
The Frasers *came to Britain from France with William the Conqueror* (see p47) *in 1066.*



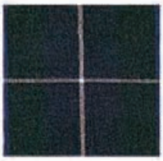
George IV, *dressed as a Highlander, visited Edinburgh in 1822, the year of the tartan revival. Many tartan "setts" (patterns) date from this time, as the original ones were lost.*



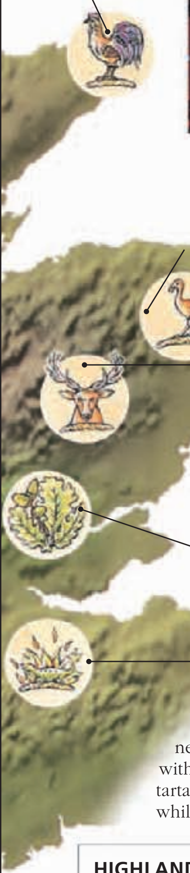
The Gordons *were famously good soldiers; the clan motto is "by courage, not by craft".*



The Stuarts *were Scotland's royal dynasty. Their motto was "no one harms me with impunity".*



The Douglas *clan were prominent in Scottish history, though their origin is unknown.*



CLAN TERRITORIES

The territories of 10 prominent clans are marked here with their clan crests. Dress tartans tend to be colourful, while hunting tartans are darker.

PLANT BADGES

Each clan had a plant associated with its territory. It was worn on the bonnet, especially on the day of battle.

Scots pine was worn by the MacGregors of Argyll.

Rowan berries were worn by the Clan Malcolm.

Ivy was worn by the Clan Gordon of Aberdeenshire.

Spear thistle, now a national symbol, was a Stuart badge.

Cotton grass was worn by the Clan Henderson.

HIGHLAND CLANS TODAY

Once the daily dress of the clansmen, the kilt is now largely reserved for formal occasions. The one-piece *feileadh-mor* has been replaced by the *feileadh-beag*, or "small plaid", made from approximately 7 m (23 ft) of material with a double apron fastened at the front with a silver pin. Though they exist now only in name, the clans are still a strong source of pride for Scots, and many still live in areas traditionally belonging to their clans. Many visitors to Britain can trace their Scots ancestry *(see p31)* to the Highlands.

Modern Highland formal dress

Evolution of the Scottish Castle

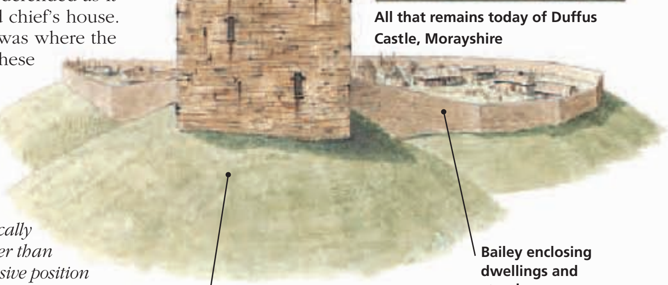
There are few more romantic sights in the British Isles than a Scottish castle on an island or at a lochside. These formidable retreats, often in remote settings, were essential all over the Highlands, where incursions and strife between the clans were common. From the earliest Pictish *brochs (see p43)* and Norman-influenced motte and bailey castles, the distinctively Scottish stone tower-house evolved, first appearing in the 14th century. By the mid-17th century fashion had become more important than defence, and there followed a period in which numerous huge Scottish palaces were built.

Detail of the Baroque façade, Drumlanrig

MOTTE AND BAILEY

These castles first appeared in the 12th century. They stood atop two adjacent mounds enclosed by a wall, or palisade, and defensive ditches. The higher mound, or motte, was the most strongly defended as it held the keep and chief's house. The lower bailey was where the people lived. Of these castles little more than earthworks remain today.

All that remains today of Duffus Castle, Morayshire



Keep, with chief's house, lookout and main defence

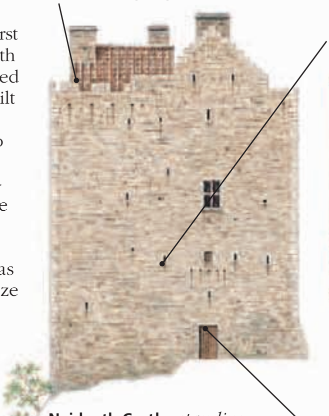
Bailey enclosing dwellings and storehouses

Motte of earth or rock, sometimes partially man-made

Duffus Castle, *(c.1150), was atypically made of stone rather than wood. Its fine defensive position dominates the surrounding flatlands north of Elgin.*

EARLY TOWER-HOUSE

Designed to deter local attacks rather than a major assault, the first tower-houses appeared in the 13th century, though their design lived on for 400 years. They were built initially on a rectangular plan, with a single tower divided into three or four floors. The walls were unadorned, with few windows. Defensive structures were on top, and extra space was made by building adjoining towers. Extensions were made as vertically as possible, to minimize the area open to attack.



Crenellated parapet for sentries

Featureless, straight walls with arrow slits for windows

Small, inconspicuous doorway

Neidpath Castle, *standing upon a steep rocky crag above the River Tweed, is an L-shaped tower-house dating from the late 14th century. Once a stronghold for Charles II, its walls still bear damage from a siege conducted by Oliver Cromwell* (see p52).

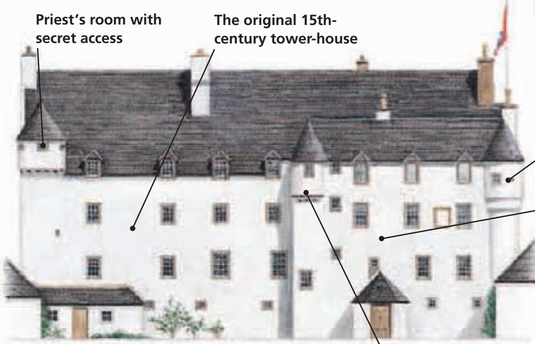
Claypotts Castle (c.1570) with uniquely projecting garrets above its towers

Braemar Castle (c.1630), a conglomeration of extended towers

LATER TOWER-HOUSE

Though the requirements of defence were being replaced by those of comfort, the style of the early tower-house remained popular. By the 17th century, wings for accommodation were being added around the original tower (often creating a courtyard). The battlements and turrets were kept more for decorative than defensive reasons.

Drum Castle *(see p541)*, a 13th-century keep with a mansion house extension from 1619


Priest's room with secret access
The original 15th-century tower-house
Round angle tower, containing stairway
A 16th-century horizontal extension
Decorative, corbelled turret

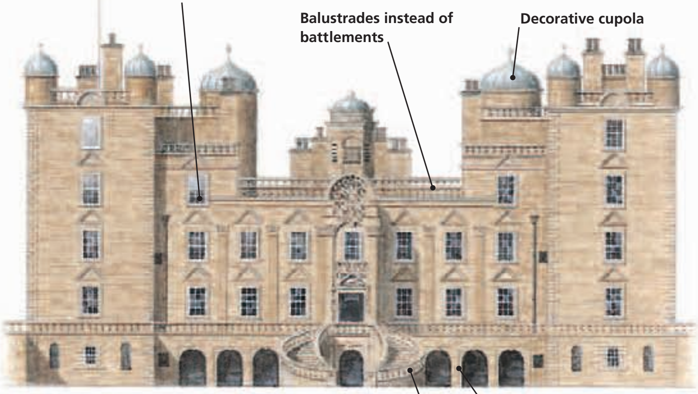
Traquair House (see p513)*, by the Tweed, is reputedly the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland. The largely unadorned, roughcast exterior dates to the 16th century, when a series of extensions were built around the original 15th-century tower-house.*

Blair Castle *(see p543)*, incorporating a medieval tower

CLASSICAL PALACE

By the 18th century, the defensive imperative had passed and castles were built in the manner of country houses, rejecting the vertical tower-house in favour of a horizontal plan (though the building of imitation fortified buildings continued into the 19th century with the mock-Baronial trend). Outside influences came from all over Europe, including Renaissance and Gothic revivals, and echoes of French châteaux.

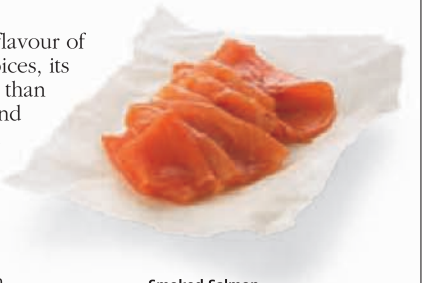
Dunrobin Castle (c.1840), Sutherland


Larger windows due to a lesser need for defence
Balustrades instead of battlements
Decorative cupola
Renaissance-style colonnade
Baroque horseshoe stairway

Drumlanrig Castle (see p514) *was built in the 17th century. There are many traditional Scots aspects as well as such Renaissance features as the decorated stairway and façade.*

The Flavours of Scotland

At its best, Scottish food is full of the natural flavour of the countryside. Served with few sauces or spices, its meat is lean and tasty. Beef doesn't get better than Aberdeen Angus, the lamb is full flavoured, and the venison superb. Scottish salmon and trout are renowned, but there are also excellent mussels, lobster and crabs. Wheat does not grow here, so oatcakes and bannocks (flat, round loaves) replace bread. The Scots have a sweet tooth, not just for cakes and shortbread but also for toffee and butterscotch.



Smoked Salmon

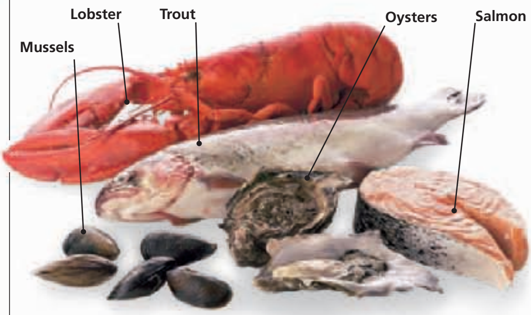
Pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle grazing the Scottish moors

THE LOWLANDS

The pasturelands of southern Scotland nourish dairy cattle and sheep, producing cheeses such as Bonnet, Bonchester and Galloway Cheddar. To accompany them are summer fruits such as loganberries, tayberries and strawberries that ripen in the Carse of Gowrie beside the River Tay. Oats, the principal cereal, appears in much Scottish cookery, from porridge to oatcakes. Pearl barley is also a staple, used in Scotch Broth (made with mutton and vegetables) or in a milk pudding. Oats are also used in the making of haggis, a round sausage of sheep or venison offal – the "chieftain o' the puddin' race", as the poet Robert Burns described it. It is often served with "neeps and tatties" (mashed swede and potato).

THE HIGHLANDS

From the Highlands comes wonderful game, including grouse, partridge, capercaillie (a large type of grouse) and deer. Fish are smoked around the coast, the west coast producing kippers, the east coast Finnan haddock, notably Arbroath Smokies. Smoked white fish is the main ingredient of Cullen Skink, a soup served on Burns' Night.



Selection of fresh Scottish fish and seafood

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH FOOD

Oats

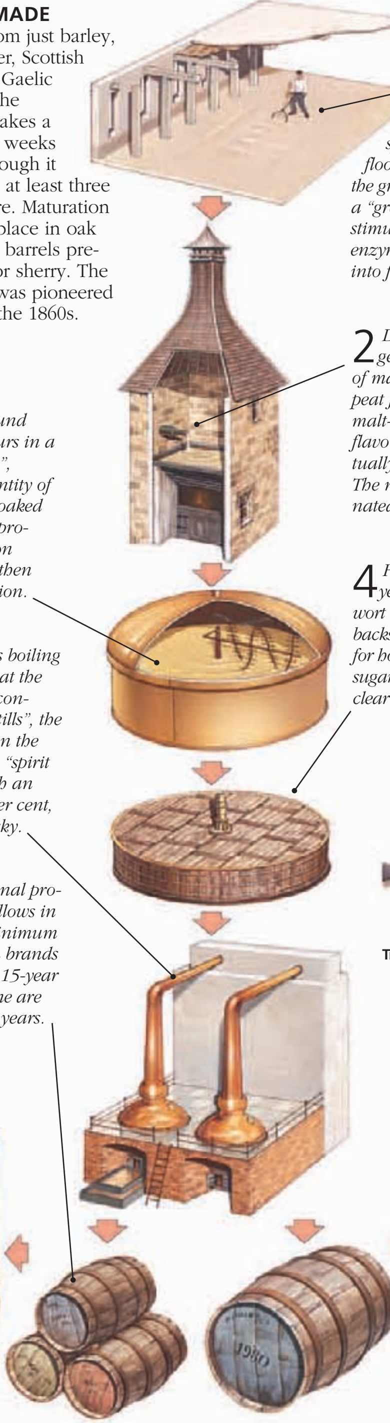
Kippers (oak-smoked herrings) are one way to start the day in Scotland, and porridge – traditionally served with salt rather than sugar – is another, although oatcakes or some other kind of griddled scone are usually present. A bowl of porridge would once last all week, just as one-pot Scotch broths bubbled in iron cauldrons over peat fires for days. Sometimes broths were made with kale or lentils, or they might contain an old boiling fowl and leeks, in which case they were known as cock-a-leekie. Any leftover meat went into making stovies, a potato and onion hash. The evening meal in Scotland is traditionally "high tea" taken in the early evening which might start with smoked fish, cold meats and pies, followed by shortbread, fruit cake or drop scones, all washed down with cups of tea.

Haggis with neeps and tatties
This is the definitive Scottish dish, traditionally served on Burns' Night (25 January).

HOW WHISKY IS MADE

Traditionally made from just barley, yeast and stream water, Scottish whisky (from the Gaelic *usquebaugh*, or the "water of life") takes a little over three weeks to produce, though it must be given at least three years to mature. Maturation usually takes place in oak casks, often in barrels previously used for sherry. The art of blending was pioneered in Edinburgh in the 1860s.

Barley grass



1 Malting is the first stage. Barley grain is soaked in water and spread on the malting floor. With regular turning the grain germinates, producing a "green malt". Germination stimulates the production of enzymes which turn the starches into fermentable sugars.

2 Drying of the barley halts germination after 12 days of malting. This is done over a peat fire in a pagoda-shaped malt-kiln. The peat-smoke gives flavour to the malt and eventually to the mature whisky. The malt is gleaned of germinated roots and then milled.

3 Mashing of the ground malt, or "grist", occurs in a large vat, or "mash tun", which holds a vast quantity of hot water. The malt is soaked and begins to dissolve, producing a sugary solution called "wort", which is then extracted for fermentation.

4 Fermentation occurs when yeast is added to the cooled wort in wooden vats, or "washbacks". The mixture is stirred for hours as the yeast turns the sugar into alcohol, producing a clear liquid called "wash".

5 Distillation involves boiling the wash twice so that the alcohol vaporizes and condenses. In copper "pot stills", the wash is distilled – first in the "wash still", then in the "spirit still". Now purified, with an alcohol content of 57 per cent, the result is young whisky.

6 Maturation is the final process. The whisky mellows in oak casks for a legal minimum of three years. Premium brands give the whisky a 10- to 15-year maturation, though some are given up to 50 years.

Traditional drinking vessels, or *quaichs*, made of silver

Famous Grouse
Teacher's
Scotch Whisky

Blended whiskies *are made from a mixture of up to 50 different single malts.*

Talisker
10
Macallan
10

Single malts *vary according to regional differences in the peat and stream water used.*

THE LOWLANDS

CLYDE VALLEY · CENTRAL SCOTLAND · FIFE · THE LOTHIANS
AYRSHIRE · DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY · THE BORDERS

Southeast of the Highland boundary fault line lies a part of Scotland very different in character from its northern neighbour. If the Highlands embody the romance of Scotland, the Lowlands have traditionally been her powerhouse. Lowlanders have always prospered in agriculture and, more recently, in industry and commerce.

Being the region of Scotland closest to the English border, the Lowlands inevitably became the crucible of Scottish history. For centuries after the Romans built the Antonine Wall *(see p44)* across the Forth–Clyde isthmus, the area was engulfed in conflict. The Borders are scattered with the castles of a territory in uneasy proximity to rapacious neighbours, and the ramparts of Stirling Castle overlook no fewer than seven different battlefields fought over in the cause of independence.

The ruins of medieval abbeys, such as Melrose, also bear witness to the dangers of living on the invasion route from England, though the woollen trade founded by their monks still flourishes in Peebles and Hawick.

North of the Borders lies Edinburgh, the cultural and administrative capital of Scotland. With its Georgian squares dominated by a medieval castle, it is one of Europe's most elegant cities. While the 18th and 19th centuries saw a great flowering of the arts in Edinburgh, the city of Glasgow became a merchant city second only to London. Fuelled by James Watt's development of the steam engine in the 1840s, Glasgow became the cradle of Scotland's Industrial Revolution, which created a prosperous cotton industry and launched the world's greatest ships.

Both cities retain this dynamism today: Edinburgh annually hosts the world's largest open-access arts festival, and Glasgow is acclaimed as a model of industrial renaissance.

A juggler performing at the annual arts extravaganza, the Edinburgh Festival

◁ Glamis Castle, 12 miles (19 km) north of Dundee, with its typically Scottish turreted exterior

Exploring the Lowlands

The Lowlands are traditionally all the land south of the fault line stretching northeast from Loch Lomond to Stonehaven. Confusingly, they include plenty of wild upland country. The region illustrates the diversity of Scotland's scenery. The wooded valleys and winding rivers of the borders give way to the stern hills of the Cheviots and Lammermuirs. Fishing villages cling to the rocky east coast, while the Clyde coast and its islands are dotted with holiday towns. Inland lies the Trossachs, a romantic area of mountain, loch and woodland east of Loch Lomond that is a magnet for walkers *(see pp36–7)* and well within reach of Glasgow.

Loch Katrine seen from the Trossachs

SEE ALSO

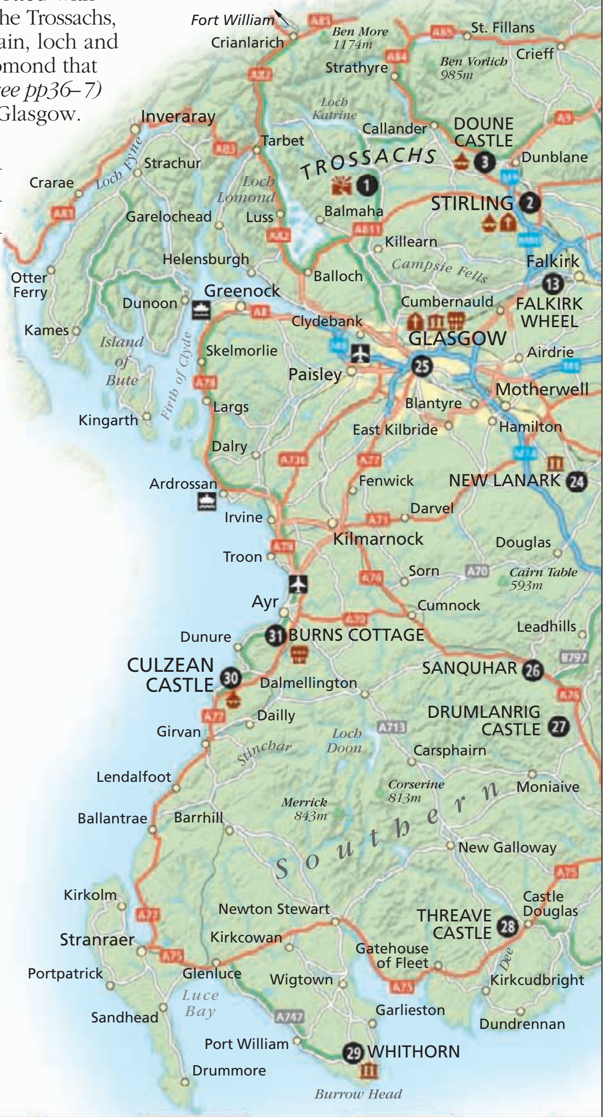
- ***Where to Stay*** pp594–6
- ***Where to Eat*** pp646–9

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

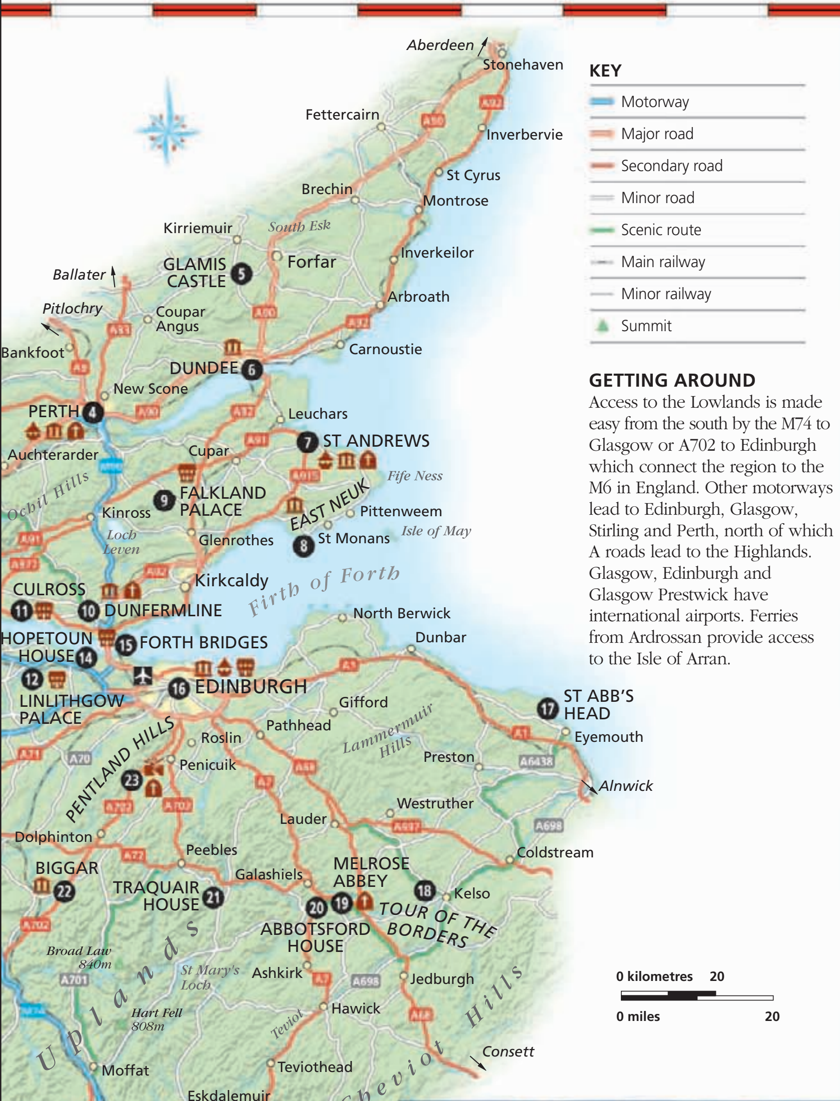
Abbotsford House ⑳
Biggar ㉒
Burns Cottage ㉛
Culross ⑪
Culzean Castle pp522–3 ㉚
Doune Castle ③
Drumlanrig Castle ㉗
Dundee ⑥
Dunfermline ⑩
East Neuk ⑧
Edinburgh pp504–11 ⑯
Falkirk Wheel ⑬
Falkland Palace ⑨
Forth Bridges ⑮
Glamis Castle ⑤
Glasgow pp516–21 ㉕
Hopetoun House ⑭
Linlithgow Palace ⑫
Melrose Abbey ⑲
New Lanark ㉔
Pentland Hills ㉓
Perth ④
St Abb's Head ⑰
St Andrews ⑦
Sanquhar ㉖
Stirling pp496–7 ②
Threave Castle ㉘
Traquair House ㉑
Trossachs pp494–5 ①
Whithorn ㉙

Walks and Tours

Tour of the Borders ⑱


Fort William
Crianlarich
Ben More 1174m
St. Fillans
Crieff
Strathyre
Ben Vorlich 985m
Loch Katrine
Callander
DOUNE CASTLE ③
Dunblane
Inveraray
Tarbet
TROSSACHS ①
Strachur
Cararae
Loch Fyne
Loch Lomond
STIRLING ②
Garelochead
Luss
Balmaha
Killearn
Helensburgh
Campsie Fells
Falkirk
Otter Ferry
Balloch
⑬
Greenock
Dunoon
Cumbernauld
FALKIRK WHEEL
Clydebank
Kames
Island of Bute
GLASGOW
Skelmorlie
Airdrie
Paisley
㉕
Firth of Clyde
Motherwell
Blantyre
Largs
Kingarth
East Kilbride
Hamilton
Dalry
Ardrossan
Fenwick
NEW LANARK ㉔
Darvel
Irvine
Kilmarnock
Troon
Douglas
Sorn
Cairn Table 593m
Ayr
Cumnock
Leadhills
Dunure
㉛ BURNS COTTAGE
CULZEAN CASTLE ㉚
SANQUHAR ㉖
Dalmellington
DRUMLANRIG CASTLE ㉗
Dailly
Girvan
Loch Doon
Stinchar
Carsphairn
Lendalfoot
Corserine 813m
Moniaive
Merrick 843m
Ballantrae
Barrhill
Southern
New Galloway
Kirkolm
Castle Douglas
Newton Stewart
THREAVE CASTLE ㉘
Stranraer
Kirkcowan
Gatehouse of Fleet
Dee
Portpatrick
Glenluce
Wigtown
Kirkcudbright
Luce Bay
Sandhead
Garlieston
Dundrennan
Port William
㉙ WHITHORN
Drummore
Burrow Head
A85
A82
A84
A83
A9
M9
A8
A78
A77
A71
A76
A70
A713
A75
A747

For additional map symbols *see back flap*


KEY
Motorway
Major road
Secondary road
Minor road
Scenic route
Main railway
Minor railway
Summit
Aberdeen
Stonehaven
Fettercairn
Inverbervie
St Cyrus
Brechin
Montrose
Kirriemuir
South Esk
Forfar
Inverkeilor
GLAMIS CASTLE 5
Ballater
Arbroath
Pitlochry
Coupar Angus
Carnoustie
Bankfoot
DUNDEE 6
New Scone
PERTH 4
Leuchars
7 ST ANDREWS
Auchterarder
Cupar
Fife Ness
Ochil Hills
9 FALKLAND PALACE
EAST NEUK
Pittenweem
Kinross
Isle of May
Loch Leven
Glenrothes
8 St Monans
Kirkcaldy
Firth of Forth
CULROSS
11
10 DUNFERMLINE
North Berwick
HOPETOUN HOUSE 14
15 FORTH BRIDGES
Dunbar
12
16 EDINBURGH
LINLITHGOW PALACE
Gifford
17 ST ABB'S HEAD
Pathhead
Roslin
Lammermuir Hills
Eyemouth
PENTLAND HILLS
Penicuik
Preston
23
Alnwick
Westruther
Lauder
Dolphinton
Peebles
Coldstream
MELROSE ABBEY
BIGGAR
Galashiels
22
TRAQUAIR HOUSE 21
18 Kelso
20 19
TOUR OF THE BORDERS
ABBOTSFORD HOUSE
Broad Law 840m
St Mary's Loch
Ashkirk
Jedburgh
Uplands
Hart Fell 808m
Hawick
Teviot
Cheviot Hills
Consett
Moffat
Teviothead
0 kilometres 20
0 miles 20

GETTING AROUND

Access to the Lowlands is made easy from the south by the M74 to Glasgow or A702 to Edinburgh which connect the region to the M6 in England. Other motorways lead to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling and Perth, north of which A roads lead to the Highlands. Glasgow, Edinburgh and Glasgow Prestwick have international airports. Ferries from Ardrossan provide access to the Isle of Arran.

Edinburgh Castle viewed from Princes Street

The Trossachs ❶

Golden eagle

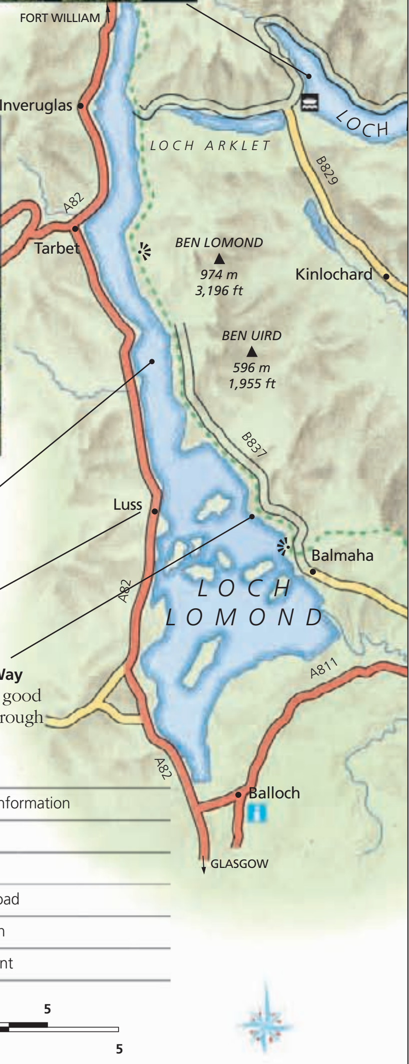
Combining the ruggedness of the Grampians with the pastoral tranquillity of the Borders, this beautiful region of craggy hills and sparkling lochs is the colourful meeting place of the Lowlands and Highlands. Home to a wide variety of wildlife, including the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, red deer and the wildcat, the Trossachs have inspired numerous writers, including Sir Walter Scott *(see p512)* who made the area the setting for several of his novels. It was the home of Scotland's folk hero, Rob Roy, who was so well known that, in his own lifetime, he was fictionalized in *The Highland Rogue* (1723), a novel attributed to Daniel Defoe.

Loch Katrine
The setting of Sir Walter Scott's Lady of the Lake *(1810), this freshwater loch can be explored on the Victorian steamer SS* Sir Walter Scott, *which cruises from the Trossachs Pier.*

Loch Lomond
Britain's largest freshwater lake was immortalized in a ballad composed by a local Jacobite soldier, dying far from home. He laments that though he will return home before his companions who travel on the high road, he will be doing so on the low road (of death).

Luss
With its exceptionally picturesque cottages, Luss is one of the prettiest villages in the Lowlands. Surrounded by grassy hills, it occupies one of the most scenic parts of Loch Lomond's western shore.

The West Highland Way provides a good footpath through the area.

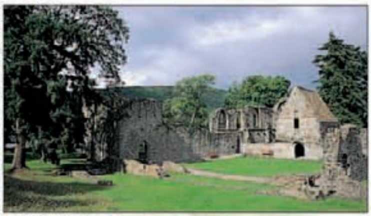

FORT WILLIAM
Inveruglas
LOCH ARKLET
LOCH
B829
A82
Tarbet
BEN LOMOND
974 m
3,196 ft
Kinlochard
BEN UIRD
596 m
1,955 ft
B837
Luss
Balmaha
A82
LOCH LOMOND
A811
A82
Balloch
GLASGOW

KEY

- ℹ Tourist information
- ▬ A road
- ▬ B road
- ═ Minor road
- ┅ Footpath
- ✳ Viewpoint

0 kilometres 5

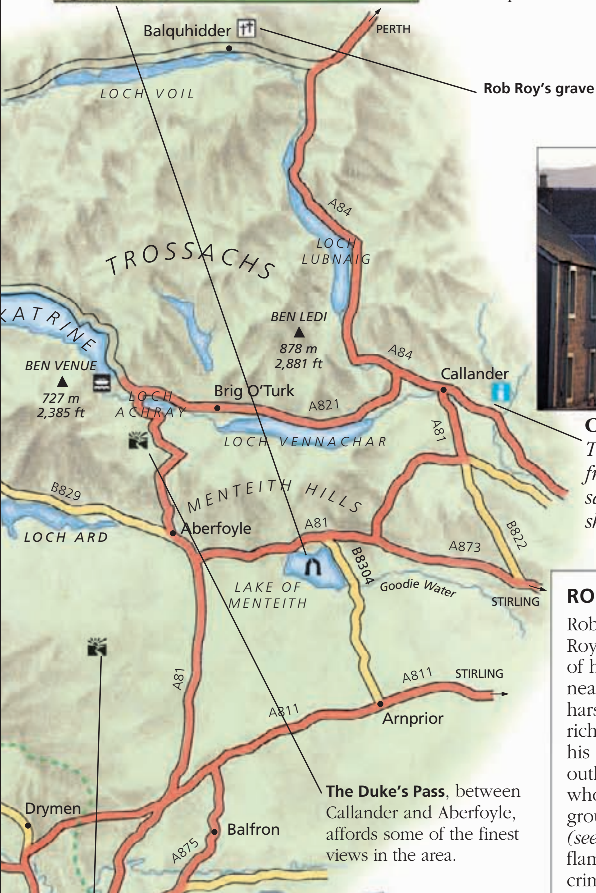
0 miles 5



Inchmahome Priory
Mary, Queen of Scots (see p511) *was hidden in this island priory to escape the armies of Henry VIII* (see p512).

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

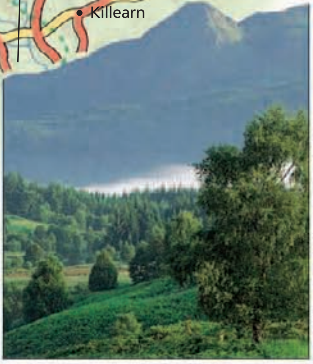
Stirling. 🚆 *Stirling.* 🚌 *Callander.* ℹ *Visit Scotland, Ancaster Sq, Callander (0870 7200628).* **www**.visitscotland.com *Loch Lomond Aquarium Visitor Centre (01389 721500).* ○ *daily.* **www**.sealifeeurope.com **Inchmahome Priory** off A81, nr Aberfoyle; by ferry to Lake of Monteith. ***Tel*** *0870 7200628.* ○ *Apr–Sep: daily.* ▨ ♿ *limited.* **SS *Sir Walter Scott*:** *ring Visitor Centre (01877 376316).*



Balquhidder
PERTH
Rob Roy's grave
LOCH VOIL
A84
LOCH LUBNAIG
TROSSACHS
KATRINE
BEN LEDI
878 m
2,881 ft
A84
BEN VENUE
727 m
2,385 ft
LOCH ACHRAY
Brig O'Turk
A821
Callander
LOCH VENNACHAR
A81
B829
MENTEITH HILLS
LOCH ARD
Aberfoyle
A81
A873
B822
B8304
LAKE OF MENTEITH
Goodie Water
STIRLING
A81
A811
STIRLING
A811
Arnprior
Drymen
Balfron
A875
Killearn

The Duke's Pass, between Callander and Aberfoyle, affords some of the finest views in the area.

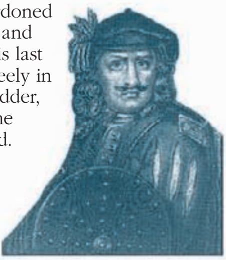
Callander
This is the most popular town from which to explore the Trossachs and films of the area are shown at the information centre.



Queen Elizabeth Forest Park
There are woodland walks through this vast tract of countryside, home to black grouse and red deer, between Loch Lomond and Aberfoyle.

ROB ROY (1671–1734)

Robert MacGregor, known as Rob Roy (Red Robert) from the colour of his hair, grew up as a herdsman near Loch Arklet. After a series of harsh winters, he took to raiding richer Lowland properties to feed his clan, and was declared an outlaw by the Duke of Montrose who then burned his house to the ground. After this, Rob's Jacobite *(see p537)* sympathies became inflamed by his desire to avenge the crime. Plundering the duke's lands and repeatedly escaping from prison earned him a reputation similar to England's Robin Hood *(see p336)*. He was pardoned in 1725 and spent his last years freely in Balquhidder, where he is buried.



The 17th-century town house of the Dukes of Argyll, Stirling

Stirling ❷

Stirling. 👥 *41,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *41 Dunbarton Rd (08707 200614).* **www**.visitscottishheartlands.com

Situated between the Ochil Hills and the Campsie Fells, Stirling grew up around its castle, historically one of Scotland's most important fortresses. Below the castle the Old Town is still protected by the original 16th-century walls, built to keep Mary Queen of Scots safe from Henry VIII. The medieval **Church of the Holy Rude**, on Castle Wynd, where the infant James VI was crowned in 1567, has one of Scotland's few surviving hammerbeam oak roofs. The ornate façade of **Mar's Wark** is all that remains of a grand palace which, though never completed, was commissioned in 1570 by the 1st Earl of Mar. It was destroyed by the Jacobites *(see p537)* in 1746. Opposite stands the beautiful 17th-century town house of the Dukes of Argyll.

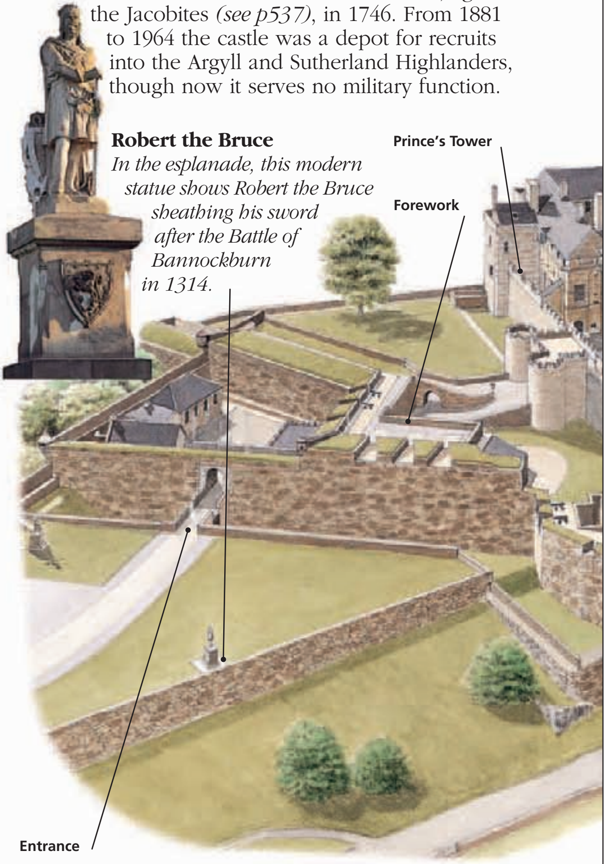
Environs: Two miles (3 km) south, the **Bannockburn Heritage Centre** stands by the field where Robert the Bruce defeated the English *(see p482)*. After the battle, he dismantled the castle so it would not fall back into English hands. A bronze equestrian statue commemorates the man who is an icon of Scottish independence.

ℹ **Bannockburn Heritage Centre**
(NTS) Glasgow Rd. ***Tel*** *01786 812664.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 10am–5:30pm daily; other times by appointment.* ● *24 Dec–Feb.* 💰 ♿

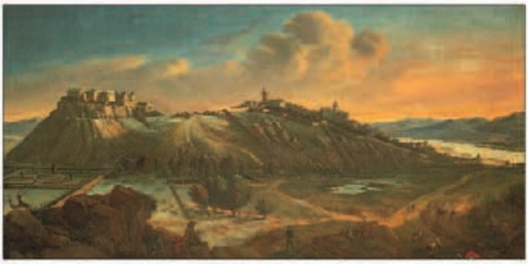
Stirling Castle

Gargoyle on castle wall

Rising high on a rocky crag, this magnificent castle, which dominated Scottish history for centuries, now remains one of the finest examples of Renaissance architecture in Scotland. Legend says that King Arthur *(see p285)* wrested the original castle from the Saxons, but there is no evidence of a castle before 1124. The present building dates from the 15th and 16th centuries and was last defended, against the Jacobites *(see p537)*, in 1746. From 1881 to 1964 the castle was a depot for recruits into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, though now it serves no military function.



Robert the Bruce
In the esplanade, this modern statue shows Robert the Bruce sheathing his sword after the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.



***Stirling Castle in the Time of the Stuarts*, painted by Johannes Vorsterman (1643–99)**

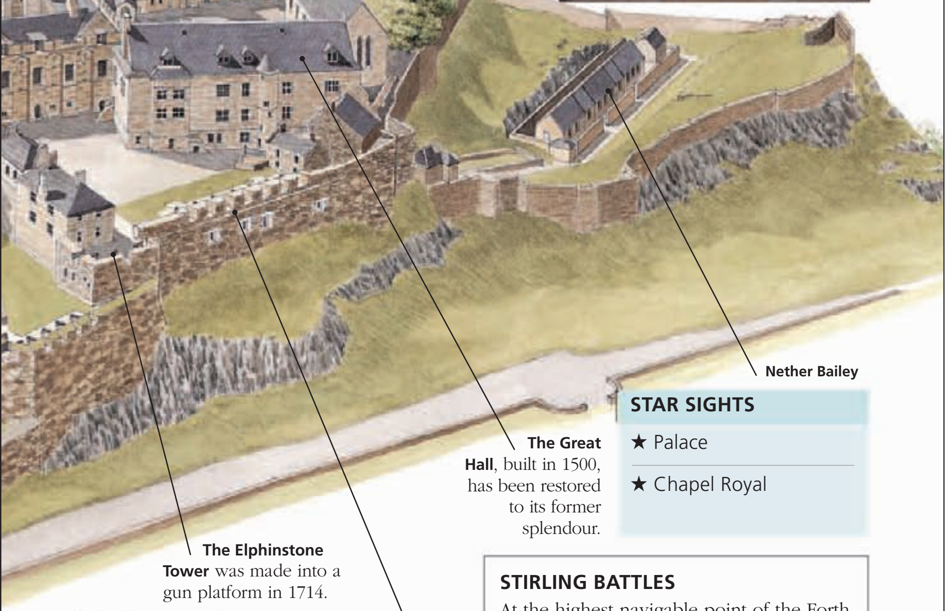
★ Palace
The restored interiors of the royal apartments contain the Stirling Heads. These Renaissance roundels depict 38 figures, thought to be contemporary members of the royal court.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Castle Wynd, Stirling. ***Tel*** *01786 450000.* ○ *9:30am–6pm (Oct–Mar: to 5pm) daily. (Palace closed for restoration until 2011.)* ● *25–26 Dec.* 🎧 📷 *except museum.* ♿ *limited.* 🎧 🍴 ☕ 🛍 **www.**historic-scotland.gov.uk

The King's Old Building houses the Regimental Museum of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

★ Chapel Royal
Seventeenth-century frescoes by Valentine Jenkins adorn the chapel, reconstructed in 1594.



Nether Bailey

The Great Hall, built in 1500, has been restored to its former splendour.

The Elphinstone Tower was made into a gun platform in 1714.

STAR SIGHTS

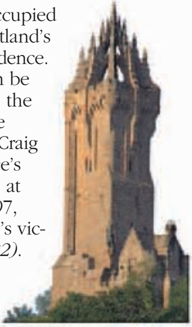
★ Palace

★ Chapel Royal

Grand Battery
Seven guns stand on this parapet, built in 1708 during a strengthening of defences following the revolution of 1688 (see p53).

STIRLING BATTLES

At the highest navigable point of the Forth and holding the pass to the Highlands, Stirling occupied a key position in Scotland's struggles for independence. Seven battlefields can be seen from the castle; the 67-m (220-ft) Wallace Monument at Abbey Craig recalls William Wallace's defeat of the English at Stirling Bridge in 1297, foreshadowing Bruce's victory in 1314 *(see p482).*



The Victorian Wallace Monument

Perth seen from the east across the Tay

Doune Castle ❸

Doune, Stirling. ***Tel*** *01786 841742.* 🚆 🚌 *Stirling then bus.* ○ *Apr–Sep: 9:30am–5:30pm daily; Oct: 9:30am–4:30pm daily; Nov–Mar: 9:30am–4:30pm Mon–Wed, Sat & Sun; last entry 30 mins before close.* ● *21 Dec–8 Jan.* 🖐 ♿ *limited.* **www**.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Built as the residence of Robert, Duke of Albany, in the 14th century, **Doune Castle** was a Stuart stronghold until it fell into ruin in the 18th century. Now fully restored, it is one of the most complete castles of its time and offers a unique insight into the royal household.

The Gatehouse, once a self-sufficient residence, leads to the central courtyard off which is the Great Hall. Complete with its reconstructed open-timber roof, minstrels' gallery and central fireplace, the Hall adjoins the Lord's Hall and Private Room. A number of private stairs and narrow passages reveal the ingenious ways the royal family tried to hide during times of danger. The castle was the setting for the 1975 film, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Perth ❹

Perthshire. 👥 *45,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *West Mill St (01738 450600).* **www**.perthshire.co.uk

Once the capital of medieval Scotland, Perth's rich heritage is reflected in many of its buildings. It was in the **Church of Saint John**, founded in 1126, that John Knox *(see p483)* delivered many of his fiery sermons. The Victorianized **Fair Maid's House**, on North Port, is one of the oldest houses in town (c.1600) and was the fictional home of the heroine of Sir Walter Scott's *(see p512) The Fair Maid of Perth* (1828).

In **Balhousie Castle**, the Museum of the Black Watch commemorates the first Highland regiment, while the **Perth Museum & Art Gallery** has displays on local industry and exhibitions of Scottish art.

Environs: Two miles (3 km) north of Perth, the Gothic mansion of **Scone Palace** stands on the site of an abbey destroyed in 1559. Between the 9th and 13th centuries, Scone guarded the sacred Stone of Destiny *(see pp482–3)*, now kept in Edinburgh Castle *(see pp506–7)*. Some of Mary, Queen of Scots' *(see p511)* embroideries are on display.

Balhousie Castle
RHQ Black Watch, Hay St. ***Tel*** *0131 310 8530.* ○ *10am–4:30pm Mon–Sat (Oct–Apr: to 3:30pm Mon–Fri).*

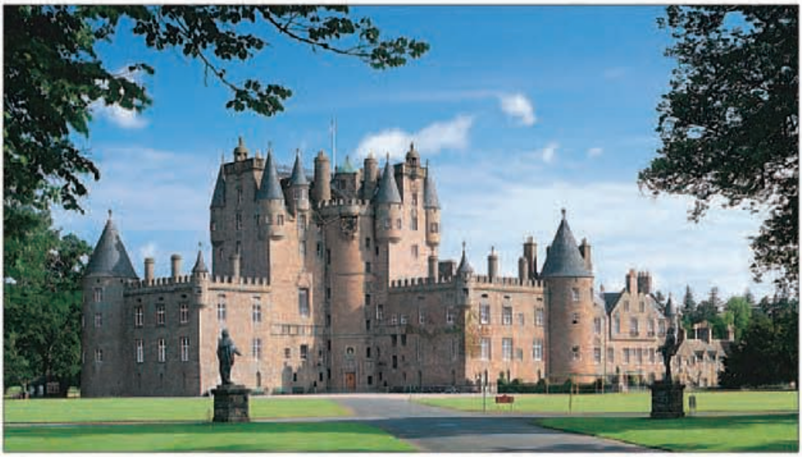
Perth Museum & Art Gallery
78 George St. ***Tel*** *01738 632488.* ○ *10am–5pm Mon–Sat (also May–Sep: 1–4:30pm Sun).* ♿

Scone Palace
A93 to Braemar. ***Tel*** *01738 552300.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 9:30am–5pm daily (to 4pm Sat); Nov–Mar: 10am–4pm Fri.* 🖐 ♿ **www**.scone-palace.net

Glamis Castle ❺

Forfar, Angus. ***Tel*** *01307 840393.* 🚆 🚌 *Dundee then bus.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 10am–6pm (last adm: 4:30pm) daily; Nov & Dec: 10:30am–4:30pm (last adm: 3pm) daily.* 🖐 ☞ **www**.glamis-castle.co.uk

With the pinnacled fairytale outline of a Loire chateau, the imposing medieval



Glamis Castle with statues of James VI (left) and Charles I (right) towerhouse of **Glamis Castle** began as a royal hunting lodge in the 11th century but underwent extensive reconstruction in the 17th century. It was the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and her former bedroom can be seen with a youthful portrait by Henri de Laszlo (1878–956).

Many rooms are open to the public, including Duncan's Hall, the oldest in the castle and Shakespeare's setting for the king's murder in *Macbeth*. Together, the rooms present an array of china, paintings, tapestries and furniture spanning five centuries. In the grounds stand a pair of wrought-iron gates made for the Queen Mother on her 80th birthday in 1980.

View of St Andrews over the ruins of the cathedral

Dundee ❻

Dundee City. 👥 *144,000.* ✈ 🚆 🚌 i *Discovery Point, Discovery Quay (01382 527527).* 🛒 *Tue, Fri–Sun; farmers' market 3rd Sat of month.* **www**.angusanddundee.co.uk

Famous for its cake, marmalade and the DC Thomson publishing empire (creators of children's magazines *Beano* and *Dandy*), **Dundee** was also a major ship-building centre in the 18th and 19th centuries, a period which can be atmospherically recreated by a trip to the Victoria Docks.

HMS *Unicorn*, built in 1824, is the oldest British-built warship still afloat and is still fitted as it was on its last voyage. Berthed at Riverside is the royal research ship ***Discovery***, built here in 1901 for Captain Scott's first voyage to the Antarctic. Housed in a Victorian Gothic building, the **McManus Galleries** provide a glimpse of Dundee's industrial heritage, as well as exhibitions on archaeology and Victorian art. The **Howff Burial Ground**, near City Square, has intriguing Victorian tombstones.

🏛 HMS *Unicorn*
Victoria Docks, City Quay. ***Tel*** *01382 200900.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily; Nov–Mar: Wed–Sun.* 🎟 ♿ *limited.*

🏛 *Discovery*
Discovery Point.
Tel *01382 309060.*
○ *daily (Sun pm).* 🎟
♿ **www**.rrsdiscovery.com

🏛 McManus Galleries
Albert Sq. ***Tel*** *01382 307200.*
○ *call for opening times.* ♿
www.mcmanus.co.uk

St Andrews ❼

Fife. 👥 *16,000.* 🚆 *Leuchars.* 🚌 *Dundee.* i *70 Market St (01334 472021).* **www**.visitscotland.com

Scotland's oldest university town and one-time ecclesiastical capital, **St Andrews** is now a shrine to golfers from all over the world *(see below)*. Its three main streets and numerous cobbled alleys, full of crooked housefronts, dignified university buildings and medieval churches, converge on the venerable ruins of the 12th-century **cathedral**. Once the largest in Scotland, the cathedral was later pillaged for stones to build the town. **St Andrew's Castle** was built for the bishops of the town in 1200. The dungeon can still be seen. The city's golf courses to the west are each open for a modest fee. The **British Golf Museum** tells how the city's Royal and Ancient Golf Club became the ruling arbiter of the game.

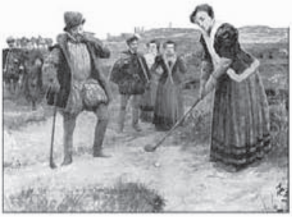
St Mary's College insignia, St Andrews University

♜ St Andrew's Castle
The Scores. ***Tel*** *01334 477196.*
○ *Apr–Sep: 9:30–5:30pm daily; Oct–Mar: 9:30–4:30pm daily.*
● *1 & 2 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* 🎟 ♿

🏛 British Golf Museum
Bruce Embankment. ***Tel*** *01334 460 046.* ○ *Jan–Mar: 10am–4pm daily; Apr–Oct: 9:30am–5pm daily; Nov–Dec: 10am–4pm daily.* 🎟 ♿

THE ANCIENT GAME OF GOLF

Scotland's national game was pioneered on the sandy links around St Andrews. The earliest record dates from 1457, when golf was banned by James II on the grounds that it was interfering with his subjects' archery practice. Mary, Queen of Scots *(see p511)* enjoyed the game and was berated in 1568 for playing straight after the murder of her husband Darnley.



Mary, Queen of Scots at St Andrews in 1563

The central courtyard of Falkland Palace, bordered by rose bushes

East Neuk ❽

Fife. 🚆 *Leuchars.* 🚌 *Glenrothes & Leuchars.* ℹ *70 Market Street, St Andrews (01334 472021).*

A string of pretty fishing villages scatters the shoreline of the **East Neuk** (the eastern "corner") of Fife, stretching from Earlsferry to Fife Ness. Much of Scotland's medieval trade with Europe passed through these ports, a connection reflected in the Flemish-inspired crow-stepped gables of many of the cottages. Although the herring industry has declined and the area is now a peaceful holiday centre, the sea still dominates village life. Until the 1980s, fishing boats were built at St Monans, a charming town of narrow twisting streets, while Pittenweem is the base for the East Neuk fishing fleet.

The town is also known for **St Fillan's Cave**, the retreat of a 9th-century hermit whose relic was used to bless the army of Robert the Bruce *(see p482)* before the Battle of Bannockburn. A church stands among the cobbled lanes and colourful cottages of Crail; the stone by the church gate is said to have been hurled to the mainland from the Isle of May by the Devil.

Several 16th- to 19th-century buildings in the village of Anstruther contain the **Scottish Fisheries Museum** which tells the area's history with the aid of interiors, boats and displays on whaling. From the village you can embark for the nature reserve on the **Isle of May** which teems with seabirds and grey seals. The statue of Alexander Selkirk in Lower Largo recalls the local boy whose adventures inspired Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (1719). Disagreeing with his captain, he was dumped on a desert island for four years.

🏛 Scottish Fisheries Museum
St Ayles, Harbourhead, Anstruther. ***Tel*** *01333 310628.* ○ *Apr–Sep: 10am–5:30pm Mon–Sat (to 4:30pm Oct–Mar), 11am–5pm Sun (from noon Oct–Mar).* ● *25 & 26 Dec, 1 & 2 Jan.* 💷 ♿ **www**.scotfishmuseum.org

THE PALACE KEEPER

Due to the size of the royal household and the necessity for the king to be itinerant, the office of Keeper was created by the medieval kings who required custodians to maintain and replenish the resources of their many palaces while they were away. Now redundant, it was a hereditary title and gave the custodian permanent and often luxurious lodgings.

James VI's bed in the Keeper's Bedroom, Falkland Palace

Falkland Palace ❾

(NTS) Falkland, Fife. ***Tel*** *0844 4932186.* 🚆 🚌 *Ladybank, Kirkcaldy, then bus.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 10am–5pm daily (to 1pm Sun).* 🛍 💷 👉 🚫📷 **www**.nts.org.uk

This stunning Renaissance palace was designed as a hunting lodge of the Stuart kings. Although its construction was begun by James IV in 1500, most of the work was carried out by his son, James V *(see p510)*, in the 1530s. Under the influence of his two French wives he employed French workmen to redecorate the façade of the East Range with dormers, buttresses and medallions, and to build the beautifully proportioned South Range. The palace fell into ruin during the years of the Commonwealth *(see p52)* and was occupied briefly by Rob Roy *(see p495)* in 1715.

After buying the estates in 1887, the 3rd Marquess of Bute became the Palace Keeper and restored it. The richly panelled interiors are filled with superb furniture and portraits of the Stuart monarchs. The royal tennis court is the oldest in Britain.

Dunfermline ❿

Fife. 👥 *55,000.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *1 High St (01383 720999).* **www**.visitdunfermline.com

Scotland's capital until 1603, Dunfermline is dominated by the ruins of the 12th-century abbey and palace which recall its royal past. In the 11th century, the town was the seat of King Malcolm III, who founded a priory on the present site of the **Abbey Church**. With its Norman nave and 19th-century choir, the church contains the tombs of 22 Scottish kings and queens, including Robert the Bruce *(see p482)*.

The ruins of King Malcolm's **palace** soar over the beautiful gardens of Pittencrieff Park. Dunfermline's most famous son, philanthropist Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919), had been forbidden entrance to the park as a boy. After making his fortune, he bought the entire Pittencrieff estate and gave it to the people of Dunfermline. He was born in the town, though moved to Pennsylvania in his teens. There he made a vast fortune in the iron and steel industry. The **Carnegie Birthplace Museum** is still furnished as it was when he lived there, and tells the story of his meteoric career.

🏛 **Carnegie Birthplace Museum**
Moodie St. ***Tel*** *01383 724302.*
○ *Mar–Oct: 11am–5pm Mon–Sat; 2–5pm Sun.* 🛍 ♿

The 12th-century Norman nave of Dunfermline Abbey Church

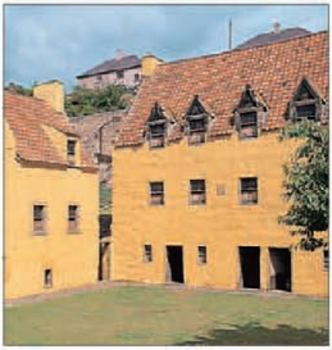
Culross ⓫

(NTS) Fife. 👥 *450.* 🚆 *Dunfermline.* 🚌 *Dunfermline.* ℹ *NTS, The Palace (0844 4932189).* ○ *Apr–Aug: noon–5pm Mon–Thu (daily Jun–Aug); Sep–Oct: noon–4pm Thu–Mon.* **Garden** ○ *10am–dusk all year.* 🎫 ♿ *limited.* 🖐 🛍 🎭 *Music & Arts Festival: Jun.*

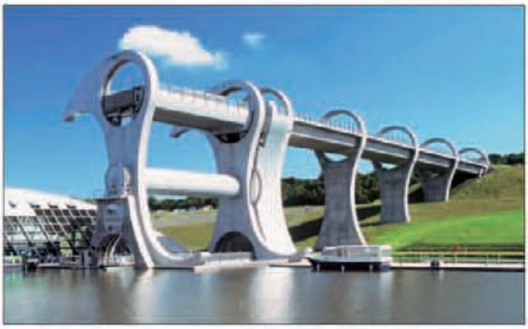
An important religious centre in the 6th century, the town of Culross is said to have been the birthplace of St Mungo in 514. Now a beautifully pre- served 16th- and 17th-century village, Culross prospered in the 16th century with the growth of its coal and salt industries, most notably under Sir George Bruce. He took charge of the Culross colliery in 1575 and created a drainage system called the "Egyptian Wheel" which cleared a mile-long (1.5 km) mine beneath the River Forth.

During its subsequent decline Culross stood unchanged for over 150 years. The National Trust for Scotland began restoring the town in 1932 and now provides a guided tour, which starts at the **Visitors' Centre**.

Built in 1577, Bruce's **palace** has the crow-stepped gables, decorated windows and red pantiles typical of the period. The interior retains its original early 17th-century painted ceilings. Crossing the Square, past the **Oldest House**, dating from 1577, head for the **Town House** to the west. Behind it, a cobbled street known as the Back Causeway (with its raised section for nobility) leads to the turreted **Study**, built in 1610 as a house for the Bishop of Dunblane. The main room is open to visitors and should be seen for its original Norwegian ceiling. Continuing northwards to the ruined abbey, fine church and Abbey House, don't miss the Dutch-gabled **House with the Evil Eyes**.



The 16th-century palace of industrialist George Bruce, Culross



The rotating Falkirk Wheel boat lift

Linlithgow Palace ⓬

Linlithgow, West Lothian. ***Tel*** *01506 842896.* 🚆 🚌 ○ *Apr–Sep: 9:30am–5:30pm daily; Oct–Mar: 9:30am–4:30pm daily.* ● *25, 26 Dec, 1, 2 Jan.* 🎫 ♿ *limited.*
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

On the edge of Linlithgow Loch stands the former royal palace of **Linlithgow**. Today's remains are mostly of the palace of James I in 1425. The scale of the building is demonstrated by the 28 m (94 ft) long Great Hall, with its huge fireplace and windows. Mary, Queen of Scots *(see p511)*, was born here in 1542.

Falkirk Wheel ⓭

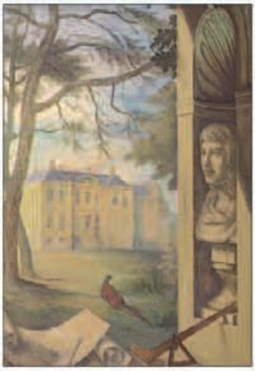
Lime Rd, Falkirk. ***Tel*** *08700 500208 (booking line).* 🚆 *Falkirk.* ○ *Feb–Nov:* **Boat trips** *range from 5 trips daily in winter to 3 trips per hour in summer.* **Visitor Centre** *daily. Nov–Feb: phone for times.* 🎫 *boat trip.* ☕ 🛍 **www**.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk

This impressive boat lift is the first ever to revolve, and the centrepiece of Scotland's canal regeneration scheme. Once important for commercial transport, the Union and the Forth and Clyde canals were blocked by several roads in the 1960s. Now the Falkirk Wheel gently swings boats between the two waterways creating an uninterrupted link between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Visitors can ride the wheel on boats that leave from the Visitor Centre.

Hopetoun House ⑭

West Lothian. ***Tel*** *0131 331 2451.* 🚆 *Dalmeny then taxi.* ○ *mid-Mar–late Sep: 10:30am–5pm (last entry 4pm).* 🛍 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🚩 *for groups – book ahead.* ☕ **www**.hopetounhouse.com

An extensive parkland by the Firth of Forth, designed in the style of Versailles, is the setting for one of Scotland's finest stately homes. The original house was built by 1707; it was later absorbed into William Adam's grand extension. The dignified, horseshoe-shaped plan and lavish interior plasterwork represent Neo-Classical 18th-century architecture at its finest. The drawing rooms, with their Rococo plasterwork and highly ornate mantelpieces, are particularly impressive. The Marquess of Linlithgow, whose family still occupies part of the house, is a descendant of the 1st Earl of Hopetoun, for whom the house was built.



A wooden panel above the main stair, depicting Hopetoun House

Forth Bridges ⑮

Edinburgh. 🚆 *Dalmeny, North Queensferry.* 🚌 *South Queensferry.*

The small town of South Queensferry is dominated by the two great bridges that span the mile (1.6 km) across the River Forth to North Queensferry. The spectacular rail bridge, the first major steel-built bridge in the world, was opened in 1890 and remains one of the greatest engineering achievements of the late Victorian era. Its massive cantilevered sections are held together by more than 6.5 million rivets, and the painted area adds up to some 55 ha (135 acres). The saying "like painting the Forth Bridge" has become a byword for non-stop, repetitive endeavour. The bridge also inspired *The Bridge* (1986) by writer Iain Banks.

The neighbouring road bridge was the largest suspension bridge outside the USA when it opened in 1964, a distinction now held by the Humber Bridge in England. There are plans to open a new bridge across the Forth in the future.

South Queensferry got its name from the 11th-century Queen Margaret *(see p507)*, who used the ferry here on her journeys between Edinburgh and the royal palace at Dunfermline *(see p501)*.

The huge, cantilevered Forth Rail Bridge, seen from South Queensferry

Edinburgh ⑯

See pp504–11.

The shattered crags and cliffs of St Abb's Head

St Abb's Head ⑰

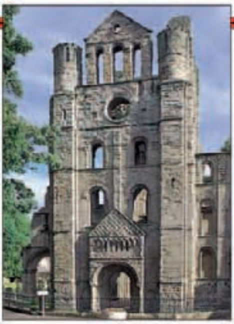
(NTS) Scottish Borders. 🚆 *Berwick-upon-Tweed.* 🚌 *from Edinburgh.*

The jagged cliffs of St Abb's Head, rising 91 m (300 ft) from the North Sea near the southeastern tip of Scotland, offer a spectacular view of thousands of seabirds wheeling and diving below. This 80 ha (200 acre) nature reserve is an important site for cliff-nesting sea birds and becomes, during the May to June breeding season, the home of more than 50,000 birds, including fulmars, guillemots, kittiwakes and puffins that throng the headland near the fishing village of St Abbs. The village has one of the few unspoiled working harbours on Britain's east coast. A clifftop trail begins at the **Visitors' Centre**, where displays include identification boards and a touch table where young visitors can get to grips with wings and feathers.

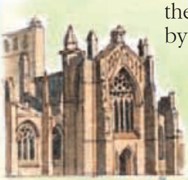
ℹ **Visitors' Centre**
St Abb's Head. ***Tel*** *018907 71443.*
○ *Apr–Oct: 10am–5pm daily.* 🚩

A Tour of the Borders ⑱

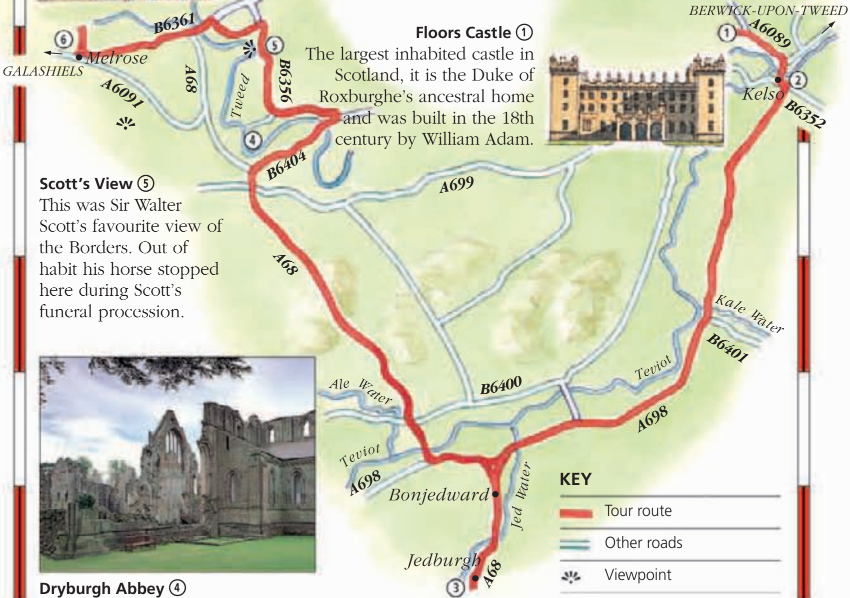
Because of their proximity to England, the Scottish Borders are scattered with the ruins of many ancient buildings destroyed in the conflicts between the two nations. Most poignant of all are the Border abbeys, whose magnificent architecture bears witness to their former spiritual and political power. Founded during the 12th-century reign of David I, the abbeys were destroyed by Henry VIII *(see p512)*.



Kelso Abbey ②
The largest of the Border Abbeys, Kelso was once the most powerful ecclesiastical establishment in Scotland.



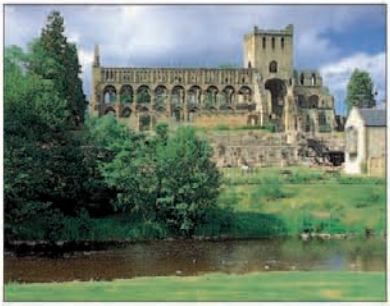
Melrose Abbey ⑥
Once one of the richest abbeys in Scotland, it is here that Robert the Bruce's heart is buried *(see p512)*.


BERWICK-UPON-TWEED
A6089
①
②
Kelso
B6352
⑥
Melrose
GALASHIELS
B6361
A6091
A68
Tweed
⑤
B6356
④
B6404
A699
A68
Kale Water
B6401
Teviot
B6400
Ale Water
A698
Teviot
A698
Bonjedward
Jed Water
Jedburgh
A68
③
KEY
Tour route
Other roads
Viewpoint

Floors Castle ①
The largest inhabited castle in Scotland, it is the Duke of Roxburghe's ancestral home and was built in the 18th century by William Adam.

Scott's View ⑤
This was Sir Walter Scott's favourite view of the Borders. Out of habit his horse stopped here during Scott's funeral procession.

Dryburgh Abbey ④
Set on the banks of the Tweed, Dryburgh is considered the most evocative monastic ruin in Scotland. Sir Walter Scott is buried here.



Jedburgh Abbey ③
Though established in 1138, fragments of 9th-century Celtic stonework survive from an earlier structure. A Visitors' Centre illustrates the lives of the Augustinian monks who once lived here.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Length: *32 miles (50 km).*
Stopping-off points: *There is a delightful walk northwards from Dryburgh Abbey to the footbridge over the River Tweed.*

0 kilometres 5

0 miles 3

Edinburgh ⑯

Royal Scots soldiers from the castle

With its striking medieval and Georgian districts, overlooked by the extinct volcano of Arthur's Seat and, to the northeast, Calton Hill, Edinburgh is widely regarded as one of Europe's most handsome capitals. The city is famous for the arts (it was once known as "the Athens of the North"), a pre-eminence reflected in its hosting every year of Britain's largest arts extravaganza, the Edinburgh Festival *(see p509).* Its museums and galleries display the riches of many cultures.

Exploring Edinburgh

Edinburgh falls into two main sightseeing areas, divided by Princes Street, the city's most famous thoroughfare and commercial centre. The Old Town straddles the ridge between the castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, with most of the city's medieval history clustered in the alleys of the Grassmarket and Royal Mile areas. The New Town, to the north, evolved after 1767 when wealthy merchants expanded the city beyond its medieval walls. This district contains Britain's finest concentration of Georgian architecture.

🏛 National Gallery of Scotland

The Mound. ***Tel*** *0131 624 6200.*
○ *10am–5pm Fri–Wed, 10am–7pm Thu (extended during the festival).* ⊘ *for special exhibitions.* ♿ ▭ ✋ *by appt.* **www**.nationalgalleries.org

One of Britain's finest art galleries, the National Gallery of Scotland is worth visiting for its 15th- to 19th-century British and European paintings alone, though plenty more can be found to delight the art-lover. Highlights among the Scottish works include portraits by Allan Ramsay and Henry Raeburn, such as his *Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch* (c.1800). The Early German collection includes Gerard David's almost comic-strip treatment of the *Three Legends of Saint Nicholas* (c.1500). Works by Raphael, Titian and Tintoretto accompany southern European paintings such as Velázquez's *An Old Woman Cooking Eggs* (1620) and the entire room devoted to *The Seven Sacraments* (c.1640) by Nicholas Poussin.

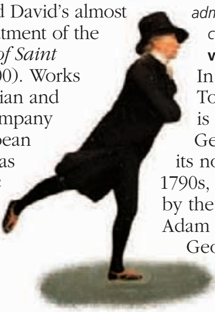
The Weston Link is an underground complex that connects the gallery with the Royal Scottish Academy. It contains a lecture theatre/cinema, shop, restaurant, café, and an IT and education room.

The doorway of the Georgian House, 7 Charlotte Square

🏛 Georgian House

(NTS) 7 Charlotte Sq. ***Tel*** *0844 493 2118.* ○ *Mar: 11am–4pm daily; Nov: 11am–3pm daily; Apr–Jun & Sep–Oct: 10am–5pm daily; Jul–Aug: 10am–6pm daily. (Last adm: half an hour before closing.)* ⊘ ♿ *limited.* **www**.nts.org.uk

In the heart of the New Town, Charlotte Square is a superb example of Georgian architecture, its north side, built in the 1790s, being a masterwork by the architect Robert Adam *(see pp28–9).* The Georgian House at No. 7 has been furnished and repainted in its original 18th-century colours which provide a memorable introduction to the elegance of wealthy New Town life. In stark contrast, "below stairs" is the household staff's living quarters, demonstrating how Edinburgh's working class lived and worked.



Raeburn's *Rev. Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch*

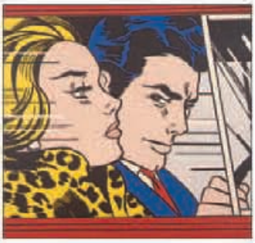
The view from Dugald Stewart Monument on Calton Hill, looking west towards the castle

🏛 Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art & Dean Gallery

Belford Rd. ***Tel*** *0131 624 6200.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ♿ **www**.nationalgalleries.org

Housed in a 19th-century school to the northwest of the city centre, this gallery features most European and American 20th-century greats, from Vuillard and Picasso, to Magritte and Lichtenstein. Work by John Bellany can be found among the Scottish painters. Sculpture by Henry Moore is on display in the grounds. The adjacent Dean Gallery shows a Dada and Surrealist collection.

Medieval chessmen, National Museum of Scotland



Lichtenstein's *In the Car,* National Gallery of Modern Art

🏛 National Museum of Scotland

Chambers St. ***Tel*** *0131 225 7534.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *25 Dec.* 🛍 ♿ 🎧 *free.* 🍴 **www**.nms.ac.uk

This purpose-built museum houses the Scottish Collections of the National Museums of Scotland. Exhibitions tell the story of Scotland, the land and its people, dating from its geological beginnings right up to the constitutionally exciting events of today.

The museum's key exhibits include the famous medieval *Lewis Chessmen*; *Pictish Chains,* known as Scotland's earliest crown jewels, and the *Ellesmere* railway locomotive. There is also a special exhibition gallery which houses fascinating temporary displays.

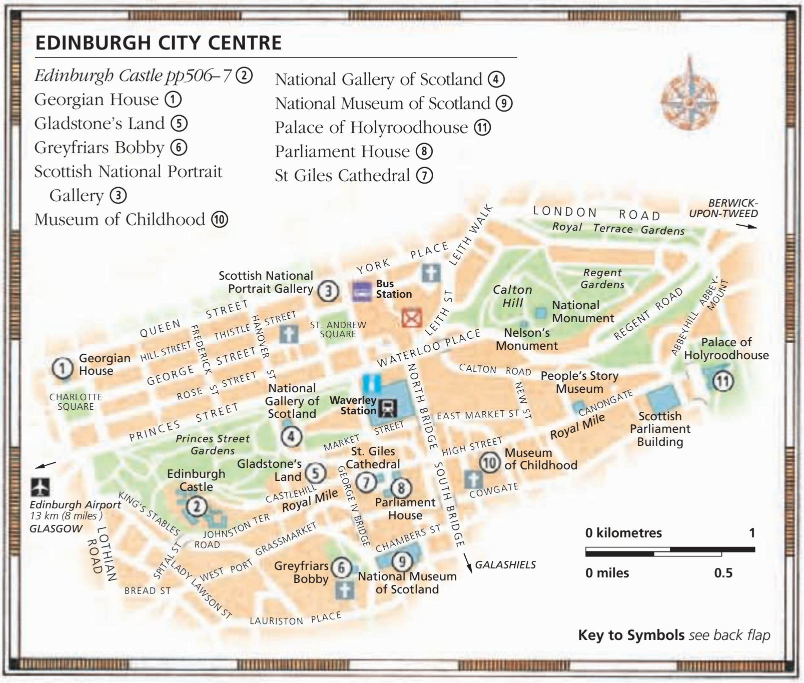
VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Edinburgh. 👥 *450,000.*
✈ *8 miles (13 km) W Edinburgh.*
🚆 *North Bridge (Waverley Station).* 🚌 *St Andrew Sq.*
ℹ *3 Princes St (0845 22 55 121).*
🎉 *Edinburgh International: Aug; Military Tattoo: Aug; Fringe: Aug.*
www.edinburgh.org

🏛 Scottish National Portrait Gallery

1 Queen St. ***Tel*** *0131 624 6200.* ● *for refurbishment until Nov 2011.* ♿ 🎧 *by appointment.* **www**.nationalgalleries.org

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery provides a unique visual history of Scotland told through the portraits of those who shared it, from Robert the Bruce *(see p482)* to Queen Anne. Portraits of other famous Scots include Robert Burns *(see p515)* by Alexander Nasmyth. The gallery is undergoing major refurbishment and will be closed until November 2011. The new layout will place greater emphasis on photography and Scottish art, alongside a dynamic exhibition programme.



EDINBURGH CITY CENTRE

Edinburgh Castle pp506–7 ②
Georgian House ①
Gladstone's Land ⑤
Greyfriars Bobby ⑥
Scottish National Portrait Gallery ③
Museum of Childhood ⑩
National Gallery of Scotland ④
National Museum of Scotland ⑨
Palace of Holyroodhouse ⑪
Parliament House ⑧
St Giles Cathedral ⑦

LONDON ROAD
Royal Terrace Gardens
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED
LEITH WALK
YORK PLACE
Scottish National Portrait Gallery ③
Bus Station
LEITH ST
Calton Hill
Regent Gardens
National Monument
REGENT ROAD
ABBEY-MOUNT
ABBEYHILL
QUEEN STREET
THISTLE STREET
HANOVER ST
ST. ANDREW SQUARE
FREDERICK ST
HILL STREET
Georgian House ①
GEORGE STREET
ROSE STREET
CHARLOTTE SQUARE
WATERLOO PLACE
Nelson's Monument
Palace of Holyroodhouse ⑪
CALTON ROAD
NEW ST
People's Story Museum
CANONGATE
Royal Mile
Scottish Parliament Building
NORTH BRIDGE
EAST MARKET ST
National Gallery of Scotland ④
Waverley Station
PRINCES STREET
Princes Street Gardens
MARKET STREET
St. Giles Cathedral ⑦
HIGH STREET
Museum of Childhood ⑩
Gladstone's Land ⑤
Edinburgh Castle ②
CASTLEHILL
Royal Mile
GEORGE IV BRIDGE
⑧ Parliament House
SOUTH BRIDGE
COWGATE
Edinburgh Airport
13 km (8 miles)
GLASGOW
KING'S STABLES ROAD
LOTHIAN ROAD
JOHNSTON TER
GRASSMARKET
CHAMBERS ST
⑨ National Museum of Scotland
GALASHIELS
SPITAL ST
LADY LAWSON ST
WEST PORT
Greyfriars Bobby ⑥
BREAD ST
LAURISTON PLACE
0 kilometres 1
0 miles 0.5

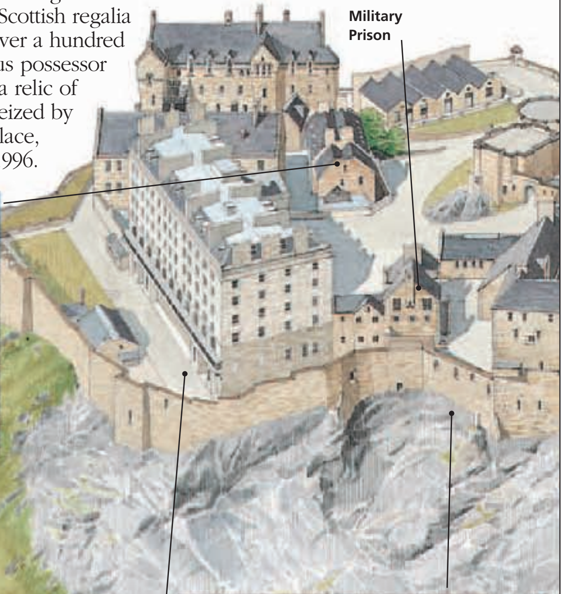
Key to Symbols *see back flap*

Edinburgh Castle

Beam support in the Great Hall

Standing upon the basalt core of an extinct volcano, Edinburgh Castle is an assemblage of buildings dating from the 12th to the 20th centuries, reflecting its changing role as fortress, royal palace, military garrison and state prison. Though there is evidence of Bronze Age occupation of the site, the original fortress was built by the 6th-century Northumbrian King Edwin, from whom the city takes its name. The castle was a favourite royal residence until the Union of Crowns *(see p483)* in 1603, after which the king resided in England. After the Union of Parliaments in 1707, the Scottish regalia were walled up in the Palace for over a hundred years. The castle is now the zealous possessor of the so-called Stone of Destiny, a relic of ancient Scottish kings which was seized by the English in 1296 from Scone Palace, Perthshire and not returned until 1996.

Scottish Crown
On display in the palace, the Crown was restyled by James V of Scotland in 1540.

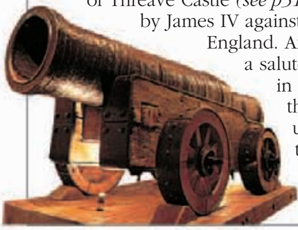


Governor's House
Complete with Flemish-style crow-stepped gables, this building was constructed for the governor in 1742. It can only be viewed from the outside only as it is still reserved for ceremonial use.

Vaults
This French graffiti, dating from 1780, recalls the many prisoners who were held in the vaults during the wars with France in the 18th and 19th centuries.

MONS MEG

Positioned outside St Margaret's Chapel, the siege gun (or *bombard*) Mons Meg was made in Belgium in 1449 for the Duke of Burgundy, who gave it to his nephew, James II of Scotland. It was used by James against the Douglas family in their stronghold of Threave Castle *(see p515)* in 1455, and later by James IV against Norham Castle in England. After exploding during a salute to the Duke of York in 1682, it was kept in the Tower of London until it was returned to Edinburgh in 1829, at Sir Walter Scott's request.



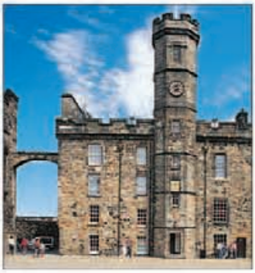
STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Great Hall
- ★ Royal Palace

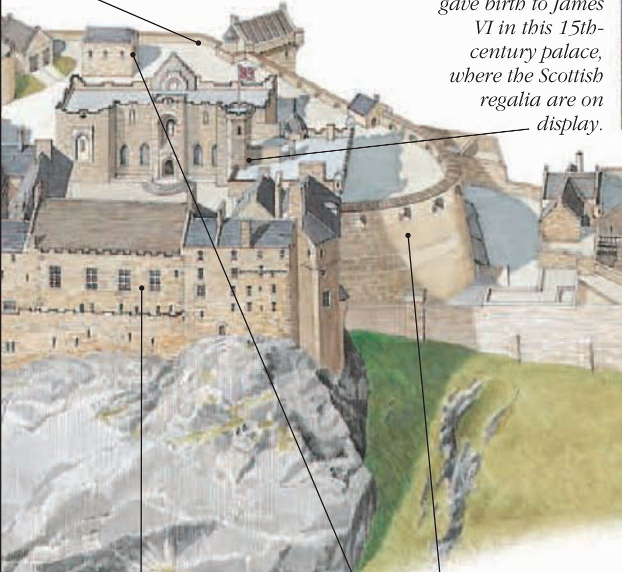
VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Castle Hill. ***Tel*** *0131 225 9846.*
○ *9:30am–6pm daily (Oct–Mar: to 5pm). (Last adm: 45 mins before closing.)* ● *25, 26 Dec.*
book tickets online to avoid queuing. ♿ 🍴 ☕ 🛍
www.edinburghcastle.gov.uk

Argyle Battery
This fortified wall commands a spectacular view to the north beyond the city's Georgian district of New Town.



★ Royal Palace
Mary, Queen of Scots (see p511) *gave birth to James VI in this 15th-century palace, where the Scottish regalia are on display.*



The Esplanade is the location of the Military Tattoo *(see p509).*

The Half Moon Battery was built in the 1570s as a platform for the artillery defending the northeastern wing of the castle.

★ Great Hall
With its restored open-timber roof, the Hall dates from the 15th century and was the meeting place of the Scottish parliament until 1639.

St Margaret's Chapel
This stained-glass window depicts Malcolm III's saintly queen, to whom the chapel is dedicated. Probably built by her son, David I, in the early 12th century, the chapel is the castle's oldest existing building.

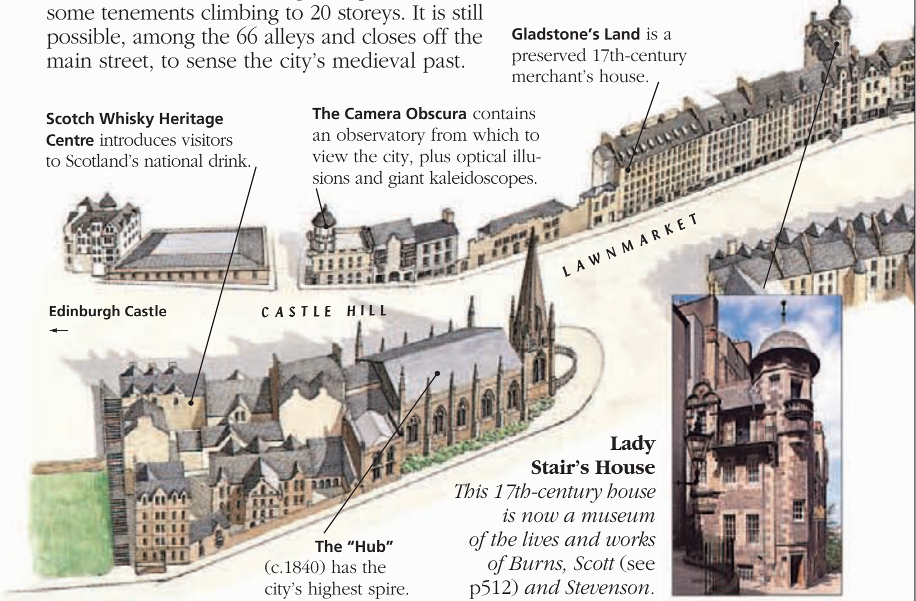
Exploring the Royal Mile: Castlehill to High Street

Eagle sign outside Gladstone's Land

The Royal Mile is a stretch of four ancient streets (from Castlehill to Canongate) which formed the main thoroughfare of medieval Edinburgh, linking the castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Confined by the city wall, the "Old Town" grew upwards, with some tenements climbing to 20 storeys. It is still possible, among the 66 alleys and closes off the main street, to sense the city's medieval past.

THE PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE
EDINBURGH CASTLE

Locator map



Gladstone's Land is a preserved 17th-century merchant's house.

Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre introduces visitors to Scotland's national drink.

The Camera Obscura contains an observatory from which to view the city, plus optical illusions and giant kaleidoscopes.

Edinburgh Castle ←

The "Hub" (c.1840) has the city's highest spire.

Lady Stair's House
This 17th-century house is now a museum of the lives and works of Burns, Scott (see p512) *and Stevenson.*

Gladstone's Land

(NTS) 477B Lawnmarket. ***Tel*** *0844 493 2120.* ○ *Easter–Oct: 10am–5pm daily (Jul & Aug: to 6:30pm). (Last adm: 30 mins before closing.)* ♿

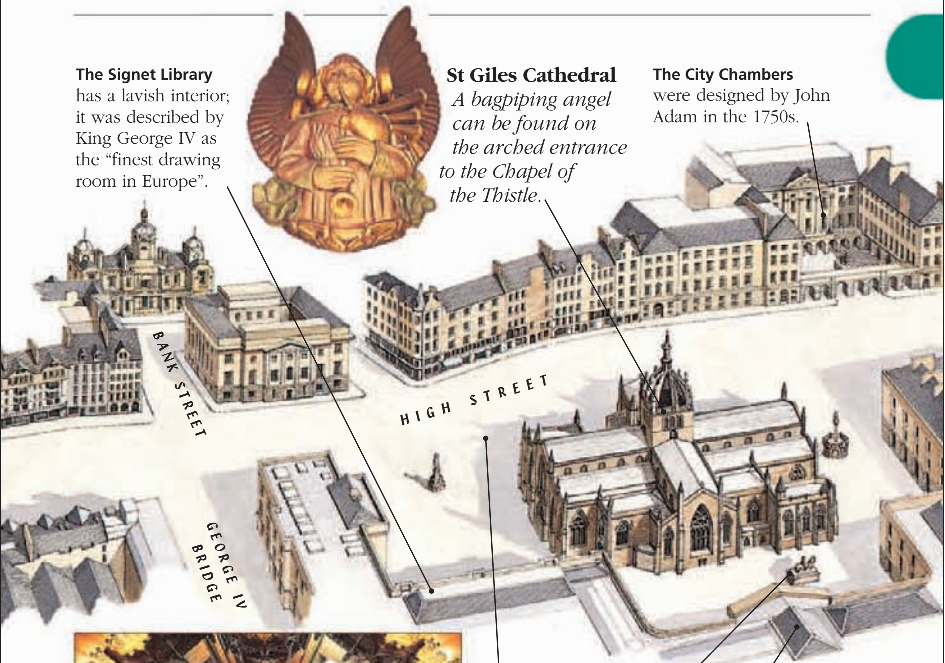
This 17th-century merchant's house provides a window on life in a typical Old Town house before overcrowding drove the rich to the Georgian New Town. "Lands", as they were known, were tall, narrow buildings erected on small plots of land. The six-storey Gladstone's Land was named after Thomas Gledstanes, the merchant who built it in 1617. The house still has the original arcade booths on the street front and a painted ceiling with fine Scandinavian floral designs. Though extravagantly furnished, it also contains items which are a reminder of the less salubrious side of the old city, such as wooden overshoes which had to be worn in the dirty streets. A chest in the beautiful Painted Chamber is said to have been given by a Dutch sea captain to a Scottish merchant who saved him from a shipwreck. A similar house, Morocco Land, can be found on Canongate *(see p511).*

The bedroom of Gladstone's Land

Parliament House

Parliament Sq, High St. ***Tel*** *0131 225 2595.* ○ *9am–5pm Mon–Fri.* ● *public hols.* ♿ *limited.*

This majestic, Italianate building was constructed in the 1630s for the Scottish parliament. Parliament House has been home to the Court of Session and the Supreme Court since the Union of Parliaments *(see p483)* in 1707. It is worth seeing, as much for the spectacle of its gowned and wigged advocates as for the stained-glass window in its Great Hall, commemorating the inauguration of the Court of Session by James V, in 1532.



St Giles Cathedral
A bagpiping angel can be found on the arched entrance to the Chapel of the Thistle.

The Signet Library has a lavish interior; it was described by King George IV as the "finest drawing room in Europe".

The City Chambers were designed by John Adam in the 1750s.

Charles II Statue

The Heart of Midlothian is an arrangement of granite cobblestones on the former site of the city jail.

Parliament House was built in 1639. The Scottish parliament convened here from 1640 until 1707.

Rib-vaulting in the Thistle Chapel, St Giles Cathedral

✝ St Giles Cathedral

Royal Mile. ***Tel*** *0131 225 9442.* ○ *May–Sep: 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm Sat, 1–5pm Sun; Oct–Apr: 9am–5pm Mon–Sat, 1–5pm Sun.* ● *1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* ▨ *donation appreciated.* ☞ **www**.stgilescathedral.org.uk

Properly known as the High Kirk (church) of Edinburgh, it is ironic that St Giles is popularly known as a cathedral. Though it was twice the seat of a bishop in the 17th century, it was from here that John Knox *(see p483)* directed the Scottish Reformation with its emphasis on individual worship freed from the authority of bishops. A tablet marks the place where Jenny Geddes, a stallholder from a local market, scored a victory for the Covenanters *(see p483)* by hurling her stool at a preacher reading from an English prayer book in 1637.

The Gothic exterior is dominated by a 15th-century tower. Inside, the impressive Thistle Chapel can be seen, with its elaborate rib-vaulted roof and carved heraldic canopies. The chapel honours the knights, past and present, of the Order of the Thistle. The carved royal pew in the Preston Aisle is used by the Queen when she stays in Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Every year, for three weeks in late summer *(see p63),* Edinburgh hosts one of the world's most important arts festivals, with every available space (from theatres to street corners) overflowing with performers. It has been held in Edinburgh since 1947 and brings together the best in international contemporary theatre, music, dance and opera. The alternative Festival Fringe balances the classic productions with a host of innovative performances. The most popular event is the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, held on the Castle Esplanade – a spectacle of Scottish infantry battalions marching to pipe bands. Also popular are the Edinburgh Book Festival and Edinburgh Film Festival (held in June).

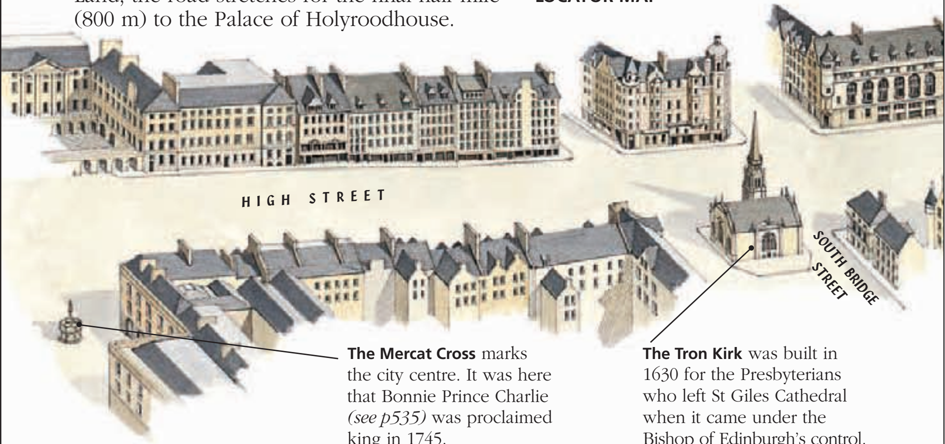
Street performer from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Exploring the Royal Mile: High Street to Canongate

The second section of the Royal Mile passes two monuments to the Reformation: John Knox House and the Tron Kirk. The latter is named after a medieval *tron* (weighing beam) that stood nearby. The Canongate was once an independent district, owned by the canons of the Abbey of Holyrood, and sections of its south side have been restored. Beyond Morocco's Land, the road stretches for the final half-mile (800 m) to the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

THE PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE
EDINBURGH CASTLE

LOCATOR MAP



The Mercat Cross marks the city centre. It was here that Bonnie Prince Charlie *(see p535)* was proclaimed king in 1745.

The Tron Kirk was built in 1630 for the Presbyterians who left St Giles Cathedral when it came under the Bishop of Edinburgh's control.

Museum of Childhood

42 High St. ***Tel*** *0131 529 4142.* ○ *10am–5pm Mon–Sat (& Sun pm during Festival).* ● *25–27 Dec.* ♿ *limited.* **www**.cac.org.uk

This lovely museum is not merely a toy collection but a magical insight into childhood. Founded in 1955 by a city councillor, Patrick Murray (who claimed to enjoy eating children for breakfast), it was the first museum in the world to be devoted to the history and theme of childhood. The collection includes medicines, school books and prams as well as galleries full of old-fashioned toys. With its nickelodeon, antique slot machines and the general enthusiasm of visitors, this has been called the world's noisiest museum.

An 1880 automaton of the Man on the Moon, Museum of Childhood

The entrance to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, seen from the west

Palace of Holyroodhouse

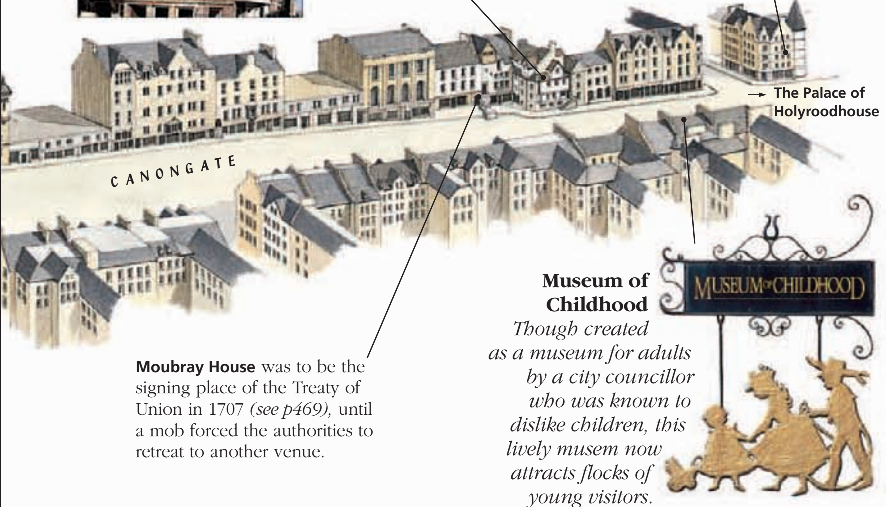
East end of Royal Mile. ***Tel*** *0131 556 5100.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 9:30am–6pm; Nov–Mar: 9:30am–4:30pm daily.* ♿ *limited.* **www**.royalcollection.org.uk

Now the Queen's official Scottish residence, the Palace of Holyroodhouse is named after the "rood", or cross, which King David I is said to have seen between the antlers of a stag he was hunting here in 1128. The present palace was built in 1529 to accommodate James V *(see p501)* and his French wife, Mary of Guise, though it was remodelled in the 1670s for Charles II. The Royal Apartments (including the Throne Room and Royal Dining Room) are used for investitures and banquets whenever the Queen visits the palace, though they are otherwise open to the public. A chamber in the James V tower is associated with the unhappy reign of Mary, Queen of Scots. It was here, in 1566, that she saw the murder of her trusted Italian secretary, David Rizzio, by her jealous husband, Lord Darnley. She had married Darnley a year earlier in Holyroodhouse chapel.

Bonnie Prince Charlie held court here in 1745 in the Jacobite *(see p537)* rising.

John Knox House
Dating from 1490, the oldest house in the city was the home of John Knox (see p483) *in the 1560s. It has undergone an extensive refurbishment.*

Morocco Land is a reproduction of a 17th-century tenement house. It takes its name from the statue of a Moor which adorns the entrance.



Moubray House was to be the signing place of the Treaty of Union in 1707 *(see p469),* until a mob forced the authorities to retreat to another venue.

Museum of Childhood
Though created as a museum for adults by a city councillor who was known to dislike children, this lively musem now attracts flocks of young visitors.

National Museum of Scotland

Chambers St. ***Tel*** *0131 247 4219.*
○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *25 Dec.*
www.nms.ac.uk

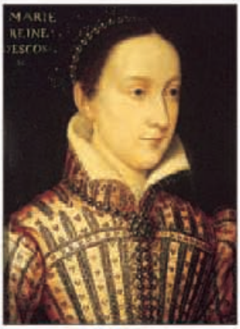
The National Museum first opened its doors in 1866. The Main Hall features a fine collection of Asian sculptures, including one of the Hindu Goddess Parvati, while European Art from 1200 to 1800 is on the first floor. On the second floor are rare scientific instruments, and geological specimens, and Eastern decorative arts are on the top floor. On the ground floor, the science and technology gallery, Connect, is where Dolly the Sheep can be found. The museum will be partially closed until late summer 2011, while renovations take place.

Parvati, at the National Museum of Scotland

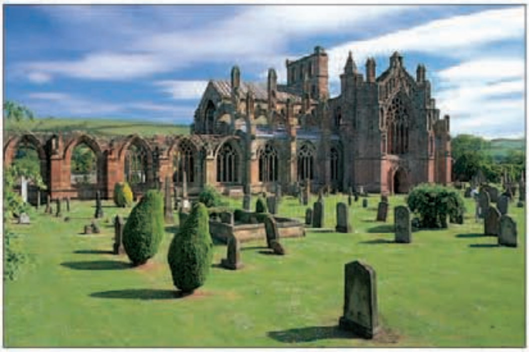
Greyfriars Bobby

On an old drinking fountain near the gateway to Greyfriars Church stands the statue of a little Skye terrier. This commemorates the dog who, for 14 years, guarded the grave of his master, John Gray, who died in 1858. The people of Edinburgh fed him until his death in 1872. He was also granted citizenship to prevent him being destroyed as a stray.

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS (1542–87)



Born only days before the death of her father, James V, the young Queen Mary spent her childhood in France, after escaping Henry VIII's invasion of Scotland *(see p512)*. A devout Catholic, she married the French Dauphin, and made claims on the English throne. This alarmed Protestants throughout England and Scotland, and when she returned as a widow to Holyroodhouse, aged 18, she was harangued for her faith by John Knox *(see p483)*. In 1567 she was accused of murdering her second husband, Lord Darnley. Two months later, when she married the Earl of Bothwell (also implicated in the murder), rebellion ensued. She lost her crown and fled to England where she was held prisoner for 20 years, before being charged with treason and beheaded at Fotheringhay.



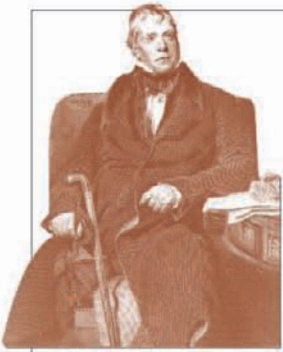
The ruins of Melrose Abbey, viewed from the southwest

Melrose Abbey ⑲

Abbey Street, Melrose, Scottish Borders. ***Tel** 01896 822562.* ○ *9:30am–4:30pm daily (Apr–Sep: to 5:30pm). (Last adm: 30 mins before closing.)* ● *1, 2 Jan, 25, 26 Dec.* 🎟 ♿ *ltd.* **www**.historic-scotland.gov.uk

The rose-pink ruins of this beautiful Border abbey *(see p503)* bear testimony to the hazards of standing in the path of successive English invasions. Built by David I in 1136 for Cistercian monks from Yorkshire, and also to replace a 7th-century monastery, Melrose was repeatedly ransacked by English armies, notably in 1322 and 1385. The final blow, from which none of the abbeys recovered, came in 1545 during Henry VIII's destructive Scottish policy known as the "Rough Wooing". This resulted from the failure of the Scots to ratify a marriage treaty between Henry VIII's son and the infant Mary, Queen of Scots *(see p511).* What remains of the abbey are the outlines of cloisters, the kitchen and other monastic buildings and the shell of the abbey church with its soaring east window and profusion of medieval carvings. The rich decorations of the south exterior wall include a gargoyle shaped like a pig playing the bagpipes.

An embalmed heart, found here in 1920, is probably that of Robert the Bruce *(see p482),* who had decreed that his heart be taken on a crusade to the Holy Land. It was returned to Melrose after its bearer, Sir James Douglas *(see p515),* was killed in Spain.



SIR WALTER SCOTT

Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832) was born in Edinburgh and trained as a lawyer. He is best remembered as a major champion and literary figure of Scotland, whose poems and novels (most famously his *Waverley* series) created enduring images of a heroic wilderness filled with the romance of the clans. His orchestration, in 1822, of the state visit of George IV to Edinburgh *(see p485)* was an extravaganza of Highland culture that helped re-establish tartan as the national dress of Scotland. He served as Clerk of the Court in Edinburgh's Parliament House *(see p508)* and for 30 years was Sheriff of Selkirk in the Scottish Borders, which he loved. He put the Trossachs *(see pp494–5)* firmly on the map with the publication of the *Lady of the Lake* (1810). His final years were spent writing to pay off a £114,000 debt following the failure of his publisher in 1827. He died with his debts paid, and was buried at Dryburgh Abbey *(see p503).*

Abbotsford House ⑳

Galashiels, Scottish Borders. ***Tel** 01896 752043.* 🚌 *from Galashiels.* ○ *mid-Mar–late Oct: 9:30am–5pm Mon–Sat, 11am–4pm Sun (except Jun–Sep).* 🎟 ♿ *limited.* ☞
www.scottsabbotsford.co.uk

Few houses bear the stamp of their creator so intimately as Abbotsford House, the home of Sir Walter Scott for the last 20 years of his life. He bought a farm here in 1811, known as Clarteyhole ("dirty hole" in Scots), though he soon renamed it Abbotsford, after the monks of Melrose Abbey who used to cross the River Tweed nearby. He later demolished the house to make way for the turreted building we see today, funded by the sales of his novels.

Scott's library contains more than 9,000 rare books and his collections of historic relics reflect his passion for the heroic past. An extensive collection of arms and armour includes Rob Roy's broadsword *(see p495).* Stuart mementoes include a crucifix that belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots and a lock of Bonnie Prince Charlie's *(see p535)* hair. The small study in which he wrote his *Waverley* novels can be visited as can the room, overlooking the river, in which he died in 1832.

The Great Hall at Abbotsford, adorned with arms and armour

Traquair House ㉑

Peebles, Scottish Borders. ***Tel*** *01896 830 323.* 🚌 *from Peebles.* ○ *Apr, May & Sep: noon–5pm daily; Jun–Aug: 10:30am–5pm daily; Oct: 11am–4pm daily: Nov: 11am–3pm Sat & Sun.* ⊘ ♿ *limited.* **www**.traquair.co.uk

As Scotland's oldest continuously inhabited house, Traquair has deep roots in Scottish religious and political history, stretching back over 900 years. Evolving from a fortified tower to a stout-walled 17th-century mansion *(see p487),* the house was a Catholic Stuart stronghold for 500 years. Mary, Queen of Scots *(see p511)* was among the many monarchs to have stayed here and her bed is covered by a counterpane which she made. Family letters and engraved Jacobite *(see p537)* drinking glasses are among relics recalling the period of the Highland rebellions.

Mary, Queen of Scots' crucifix, Traquair House

After a vow made by the 5th Earl, Traquair's Bear Gates (the "Steekit Yetts"), which closed after Bonnie Prince Charlie's *(see p535)* visit in 1745, will not reopen until a Stuart reascends the throne. A secret stairway leads to the Priest's Room which attests to the problems faced by Catholic families until Catholicism was legalized in 1829. Traquair House Ale is still produced in the 18th-century brewhouse.

Biggar ㉒

Clyde Valley. 👥 *2,000.* ℹ *High St (01899 221066).*

This typical Lowland market town has a number of museums worth visiting. The **Gladstone Court Museum** boasts a reconstructed Victorian street complete with a milliner's, printer's and a village library, while the grimy days of the town's industrial past are recalled at the **Gasworks Museum**, with its collection of engines, gaslights and appliances. Established in 1839 and preserved in the 1970s, the Biggar Gasworks is the only remaining rural gasworks in Scotland.

🏛 **Gladstone Court Museum**
Northback Rd. ***Tel*** *01899 221050.*
○ *May–Sep: 2–5pm daily (to 4:30pm Sun).* ⊘ ♿

🏛 **Gasworks Museum**
Gasworks Rd. ***Tel*** *01899 221070.*
○ *Jun–Sep: 2–5pm daily.*

Pentland Hills ㉓

The Lothians. 🚆 *Edinburgh, then bus.* ℹ *Regional Park Headquarters, Biggar Rd, Edinburgh (0131 4453383).*

The Pentland Hills, stretching for 16 miles (26 km) southwest of Edinburgh, offer some of the best hill-walking country in the Lowlands. Leisurely walkers can saunter along the many signposted footpaths, while the more adventurous can take the chairlift at the Hillend dry ski slope to reach the higher ground leading to the 493 m (1,617 ft) hill of Allermuir. Even more ambitious is the classic scenic route along the ridge from Caerketton to West Kip.

To the east of the A703, in the lee of the Pentlands, stands the exquisite and ornate 15th-century **Rosslyn Chapel**. It was originally intended as a church, but after the death of its founder, William Sinclair, it was also used as a burial ground for his descendants. The delicately wreathed Apprentice Pillar recalls the legend of the apprentice carver who was killed by the master stonemason in a fit of jealousy at his pupil's superior skill.

✝ **Rosslyn Chapel**
Roslin. ***Tel*** *0131 4402159.* ○ *daily (Sun: pm only).* ⊘ ♿

Details of the decorated vaulting in Rosslyn Chapel

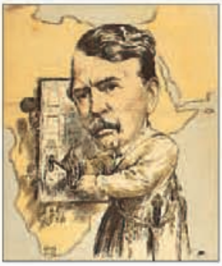
The Classical 18th-century tenements of New Lanark on the banks of the Clyde

New Lanark ㉔

Clyde Valley. 👥 *185.* 🚆 🚌 *Lanark.* ℹ *Horsemarket, Ladyacre Rd (01555 661345).* ♿ ⊖ *daily.* **www**.newlanark.org

Situated by the falls of the River Clyde, the village of New Lanark was founded in 1785 by the industrial entrepreneur David Dale. Ideally located for the working of its water-driven mills, the village had become Britain's largest cotton producer by 1800. Dale and his successor, Robert Owen, were philanthropists whose reforms proved that commercial success need not undermine the wellbeing of the workforce. Now a museum, New Lanark is a window on to working life in the early 19th century. The **New Millennium Experience** provides a special-effects ride through time, from the life of a mill girl in 1820 to the 23rd century.

Environs: 15 miles (24 km) north, Blantyre has a memorial to the famous Scottish explorer David Livingstone.



DAVID LIVINGSTONE

Scotland's great missionary doctor and explorer was born in Blantyre where he began working life as a mill boy at the age of ten. Livingstone (1813–73) made three epic journeys across Africa, from 1840, promoting "commerce and Christianity". He became the first European to see Victoria Falls and died in 1873 while searching for the source of the Nile. He is buried in Westminster Abbey *(see pp92–3).*

🏛 New Millennium Experience
New Lanark Visitor Centre. ***Tel*** *01555 661345.* ○ *11am–5pm daily.* 🚫 ♿
☞ *groups only, by appt – book ahead.*

Glasgow ㉕

See pp516–21.

Sanquhar ㉖

Dumfries & Galloway. 👥 *2,500.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *High St (01387 253374).*

Now of chiefly historic interest, the town of **Sanquhar** was famous in the history of the Covenanters *(see p483)*. In the 1680s, two declarations opposing the rule of bishops were pinned to the Mercat Cross, the site of which is now marked by a granite obelisk. The first protest was led by a local teacher, Richard Cameron, whose followers became the Cameronian regiment. The Georgian **Tolbooth** was designed by William Adam *(see p548)* in 1735 and houses a local interest museum and tourist centre. The Post Office, opened in 1763, is the oldest in Britain, predating the mail coach service.

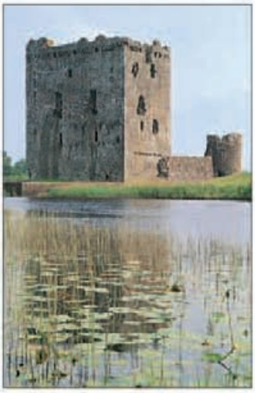
Drumlanrig Castle ㉗

Thornhill, Dumfries & Galloway. ***Tel*** *01848 331555.* 🚆 🚌 *Dumfries, then bus.* ○ **Grounds** Apr–Oct: *10am–5pm daily.* **Castle** *Easter–Aug: 11am–4pm daily.* 🚫 ♿ ☞ **www**.drumlanrig.co.uk

Rising squarely from a grassy platform, the massive fortress-palace of **Drumlanrig** *(see p487)* was built from pink sandstone

The Baroque front steps and doorway of Drumlanrig Castle

between 1679 and 1691 on the site of a 15th-century Douglas stronghold. A formidable multi-turreted exterior contains a priceless collection of art treasures such as paintings by Holbein and Rembrandt, as well as such Jacobite relics as Bonnie Prince Charlie's camp kettle and sash. The emblem of a crowned and winged heart, shown throughout the castle, recalls Sir James, the "Black Douglas", who bore Robert the Bruce's *(see p482)* heart while on crusade. After being mortally wounded he threw the heart at his enemies with the words "forward brave heart!"



The sturdy island fortress of Threave Castle on the Dee

Threave Castle ㉘

Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway. ***Tel** 07711 223101.*
🚆 *Dumfries.* ○ *Apr–Sep: 9:30am–5:30pm daily (last boat to castle leaves at 4:30pm).*
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

This menacing giant of a tower, a 14th-century Black Douglas *(see above)* stronghold standing on an island in the Dee, commands the most complete medieval riverside harbour in Scotland. Douglas's struggles against the early Stewart kings culminated in his surrender here after a two-month siege in 1455 – but only after James II had brought the cannon Mons Meg *(see p506)* to batter the castle. Threave was dismantled after Protestant Covenanters *(see p483)* defeated its Catholic defenders in 1640. Inside the tower, only the shell of the kitchen, great hall and domestic levels remains. Over the 15th-century doorway is the "gallows knob", a reminder of when the owners are said to have boasted that it never lacked its noose. Access to the castle is by small boat.

Whithorn ㉙

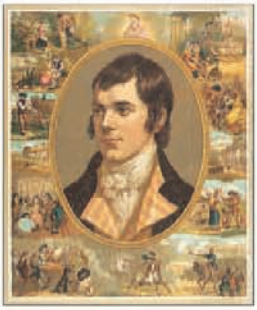
Dumfries & Galloway. 👥 *1,000.*
🚆 *Stranraer.* 🚌 ℹ *Dashwood Sq, Newton Stewart (01671 402431).*
www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk

The earliest site of continuous Christian worship in Scotland, Whithorn (meaning white house) takes its name from the white chapel built here by St Ninian in 397. Though nothing remains of his chapel, a guided tour of the archaeological dig reveals evidence of Northumbrian, Viking and Scottish settlements ranging from the 5th to the 19th centuries. A visitors' centre, **The Whithorn Story**, provides information on the excavations and contains a collection of carved stones. One, dedicated to Latinus, dates to 450, making it Scotland's earliest Christian monument.

🏛 The Whithorn Story
The Whithorn Trust, 45–47 George St. ***Tel** 01988 500508.*
○ *Easter–Oct: 10:30am–5pm daily.*
♿ **www**.whithorn.com

Culzean Castle ㉚

See pp522–3.



Robert Burns surrounded by his creations, by an unknown artist

Burns Cottage ㉛

Burns National Heritage Park, Alloway, South Ayrshire. ***Tel** 01292 443700.*
🚆 *Ayr, then bus.* ○ *Oct–Mar: 10am–5pm; Apr–Sep: 10am–5:30pm; daily.*
● *25 & 26 Dec, 1 & 2 Jan.* ♿
www.burnsheritagepark.com

Robert Burns (1759–96), Scotland's favourite poet, was born and spent his first seven years in this small thatched cottage in Alloway. Built by his father, the restored cottage still contains much of its original furniture. There is also a small museum next door displaying many of Burns's manuscripts along with early editions of his works. Much of his poem *Tam o' Shanter* (1790) is set in Alloway, which commemorates him with a huge monument on the outskirts of the village.

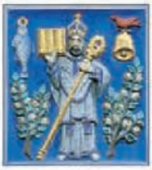
Burns became a celebrity following the publication in 1786 of the Kilmarnock Edition of his poems. Scots everywhere gather to celebrate Burns Night *(see p65)* on his birthday, 25 January.

SCOTTISH TEXTILES

Weaving in the Scottish Borders goes back to the Middle Ages, when monks from Flanders established a thriving woollen trade with the Continent. Cotton became an important source of wealth in the Clyde Valley during the 19th century, when handloom weaving was overtaken by power-driven mills. The popular Paisley patterns were based on Indian designs.

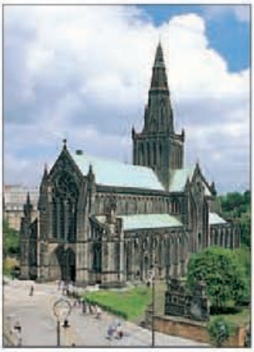
A colourful pattern from Paisley

Glasgow ㉕



St Mungo with the Glasgow symbols

Though its Celtic name, *Glas cu*, means "dear green place", Glasgow is more often associated with its industrial past, and once enjoyed the title of Second City of the Empire (after London). Glasgow's architectural standing, as Scotland's finest Victorian city, reflects its era of prosperity, when ironworks, cotton mills and shipbuilding were fuelled by Lanarkshire coal. The Science Centre sits on the Clyde's revitalized south bank, and Glasgow rivals Edinburgh *(see pp504–11)* in the arts, with galleries such as the Kelvingrove and the Burrell Collection *(see pp520–21).*



Glasgow's medieval cathedral viewed from the southwest

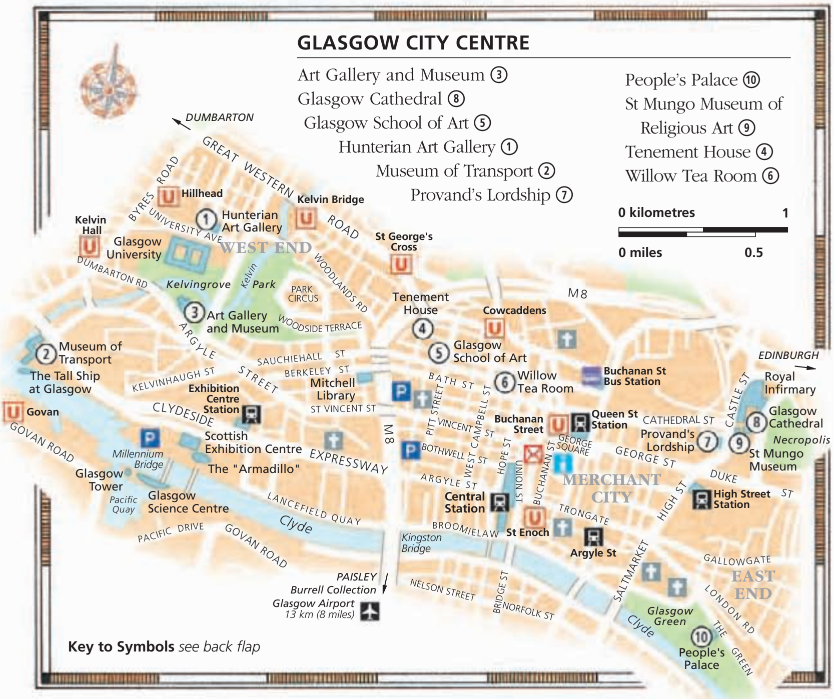
Exploring Glasgow

With some relics of its grimy industrial past and glossy new image, modern Glasgow is a city of contrasts. The deprived East End, with its busy weekend market, "the Barras", stands by the restored 18th-century Merchant City and Victorian George Square. The more affluent West End prospered in the 19th century as a retreat for wealthy merchants escaping the industrialized Clydeside, and it is here that restaurants, bars, parks and Glasgow University can be found. South Side, next to affluent Pollokshields, is Pollok Country Park, site of the Burrell Collection. An underground network and good bus and rail links provide easy travel around the city.

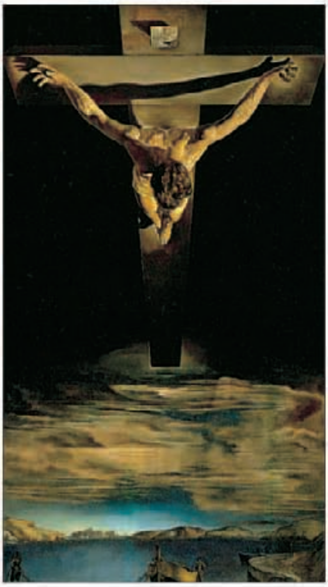
Glasgow Cathedral

2 Castle St. ***Tel*** *0141 5528198.* ○ *Apr–Sep: 9:30am–5:30pm Mon–Sat, 1–5:30pm Sun; Oct–Mar: 9:30am–4pm Mon–Sat, 1–4pm Sun.* ♿

As one of the only cathedrals to escape destruction during the Scottish Reformation *(see pp482–3)* – by adapting itself to Protestant worship – this is a rare example of an almost complete 13th-century church. It was built on the site of a chapel founded by the city's patron saint, St Mungo, a 6th-century bishop of Strathclyde. According to legend, Mungo placed the body of a holy man named Fergus on a cart yoked to two wild bulls, telling them to take it to the place ordained by God. In the "dear green place" at which the bulls stopped he built his church. The cathedral is on two levels.



GLASGOW CITY CENTRE
Art Gallery and Museum ③
Glasgow Cathedral ⑧
Glasgow School of Art ⑤
Hunterian Art Gallery ①
Museum of Transport ②
Provand's Lordship ⑦
People's Palace ⑩
St Mungo Museum of Religious Art ⑨
Tenement House ④
Willow Tea Room ⑥
0 kilometres 1
0 miles 0.5
DUMBARTON
GREAT WESTERN ROAD
BYRES ROAD
Hillhead
Kelvin Bridge
Kelvin Hall
Hunterian Art Gallery
UNIVERSITY AVE
Glasgow University
WEST END
St George's Cross
DUMBARTON RD
Kelvingrove Park
Kelvin
PARK CIRCUS
WOODLANDS RD
Tenement House
Cowcaddens
M8
Art Gallery and Museum
WOODSIDE TERRACE
ARGYLE STREET
Museum of Transport
The Tall Ship at Glasgow
KELVINHAUGH ST
SAUCHIEHALL ST
BERKELEY ST
Glasgow School of Art
Mitchell Library
BATH ST
Willow Tea Room
Buchanan St Bus Station
EDINBURGH
Royal Infirmary
Exhibition Centre Station
CLYDESIDE
ST VINCENT ST
Govan
GOVAN ROAD
Scottish Exhibition Centre
M8
PITT STREET
WEST CAMPBELL ST
VINCENT ST
Buchanan Street
Queen St Station
CATHEDRAL ST
CASTLE ST
Glasgow Cathedral
Necropolis
Provand's Lordship
St Mungo Museum
Millennium Bridge
EXPRESSWAY
The "Armadillo"
BOTHWELL ST
HOPE ST
GEORGE SQUARE
GEORGE ST
Glasgow Tower
Pacific Quay
Glasgow Science Centre
ARGYLE ST
UNION ST
BUCHANAN ST
MERCHANT CITY
DUKE
High Street Station
ST
HIGH ST
LANCEFIELD QUAY
Central Station
Clyde
PACIFIC DRIVE
GOVAN ROAD
BROOMIELAW
St Enoch
TRONGATE
Kingston Bridge
Argyle St
GALLOWGATE
SALTMARKET
EAST END
PAISLEY
Burrell Collection
Glasgow Airport 13 km (8 miles)
NELSON STREET
BRIDGE ST
NORFOLK ST
Glasgow Green
Clyde
LONDON RD
THE GREEN
People's Palace
Key to Symbols see back flap



Dalí's *Christ of St John of the Cross* at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery *(see p519)*

The crypt contains the tomb of St Mungo, surrounded by an intricate forest of columns springing up to end in delicately carved rib-vaulting. The Blackadder Aisle, reputed to have been built over a cemetery blessed by St Ninian *(see p515),* has a ceiling thick with decorative bosses.

🏛 St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art

2 Castle St. ***Tel*** *0141 2761625.* ○ *10am–5pm daily (from 11am Fri & Sun).* ♿ *by appointment.*

Situated in the cathedral precinct, this museum is a world first. The main exhibition illustrates religious themes with superb artifacts, including a 19th-century dancing Shiva and an Islamic painting entitled the *Attributes of Divine Perfection* (1986) by Ahmed Moustafa. Other religious paintings on display include *Crucifixion VII* (1988) by Scottish artist Craigie Aitchison. An exhibition on religion in Glasgow throws light on the life of the missionary David Livingstone *(see p514).* Outside you can visit Britain's only permanent Zen Buddhist garden.

Tenement House

(NTS) 145 Buccleuch St. ***Tel*** *0141 3330183.* ○ *Mar–Oct: 1–5pm daily.* *by appt.* **www**.nts.org.uk

Less a museum than a time capsule, the Tenement House is an almost undisturbed record of life in a modest Glasgow flat in a tenement estate during the early 20th century. Glasgow owed much of its vitality and neighbourliness to tenement life, though many of these Victorian and Edwardian apartments were to earn a bad name for poverty and overcrowding, and many have now been pulled down. The Tenement House was first owned by Miss Agnes Toward who lived here from 1911 until 1965. It remained largely unaltered and, since Agnes threw very little away, it is now a treasure trove of social history. The parlour, previously used only on formal occasions, has afternoon tea laid out on a white lace cloth. The kitchen, with its coal-fired range and box bed, is filled with the tools of a vanished era such as a goffering iron for crisping waffles, a washboard and a stone hot-water bottle.

Agnes's lavender water and medicines are still in the bathroom, as though she had stepped out for a minute 70 years ago, and forgotten to return home.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

City of Glasgow. *580,000.*
✈ *Argyle St (Glasgow Central).* *Buchanan St.*
ℹ *11 George Square (0141 2044400).* *Sat, Sun.*
www.seeglasgow.com

The preserved Edwardian kitchen of the Tenement House

The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the Glasgow University buildings, viewed from the south

Glasgow's medieval house, Provand's Lordship

Provand's Lordship

3 Castle St. ***Tel*** *0141 5528819.* ○ *10am–5pm daily (from 11am Fri & Sun).* **www**.glasgowmuseums.com

Now a museum, Provand's Lordship was built as a canon's house in 1471, and is the city's oldest surviving house. Its low ceilings and austere wooden furnishings create a vivid impression of life in a wealthy 15th-century household. It is thought that Mary, Queen of Scots *(see p511)* may have stayed here in 1566 when she made a visit to see her cousin and husband, Lord Darnley.

Mackintosh's interior of the Willow Tea Room

Willow Tea Room

217 Sauchiehall St (also 97 Buchanan St). ***Tel*** *0141 332 0521.* ○ *9am–5pm Mon–Sat, 11am–4:15pm Sun.* 🛍 **www**.willowtearooms.co.uk

This is the sole survivor of a series of delightful tea rooms created by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1904 for the celebrated restaurateur Miss Kate Cranston. Everything from the high-backed chairs to the tables and cutlery was his design. In particular, the 1904 Room de Luxe sparkles with silver furniture and flamboyant leaded glass work. The No. 97 Buchanan Street branch opened in 1997, and recreates Cranston's original Ingram Street Tea Rooms.

Museum of Transport

Pointhouse Quay. ***Tel*** *0141 2872720.* ● *until spring 2011 – call for details.* ♿ ✋ ☕ 🛍 **www**.glasgowmuseums.com

Model ships and ranks of gleaming Scottish-built steam engines, cars and motorcycles recall the 19th and early 20th centuries, when Glasgow's supremacy in shipbuilding, trade and manufacturing made her the "second city" of the British Empire. Old Glasgow's transition into a modern city can be seen through fascinating footage of the town in the cinema and through a series of three street reconstructions covering 1890–1930, 1930–60 and 1960–80. Don't miss the *Tall Ship Glenlee*, berthed just outside the museum on the River Clyde.

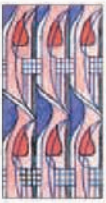
The Museum of Transport's reconstructed 1938 street, with Underground station

Glasgow Necropolis

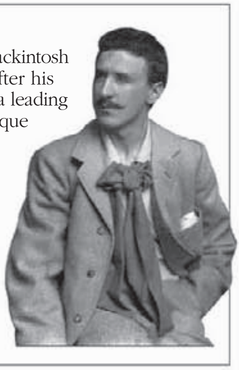
Cathedral Sq. ***Tel*** *0141 2873961.* ○ *daily.* 🛍 ♿ *limited.*

Behind the cathedral, the reformer John Knox *(see p483)* surveys the city from his Doric pillar overlooking a Victorian cemetery. It is filled with crumbling monuments to the dead of Glasgow's wealthy merchant families.

CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH



A Mackintosh floral design



Glasgow's most celebrated designer, Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868–1928), entered Glasgow School of Art at 16. After his first big break with the Willow Tea Room, he became a leading figure in the Art Nouveau movement, developing a unique style that borrowed from Gothic and Scottish Baronial designs. He believed a building should be a fully integrated work of art, creating furniture and fittings that complemented the overall construction. Nowhere is this total design better seen than in the Glasgow School of Art, which he designed in 1896. Unrecognized in his lifetime, Mackintosh's work is now widely imitated. Its characteristic straight lines and flowing detail are the hallmark of early 20th-century Glasgow style, in all fields of design from textiles to architecture.

🏛 People's Palace

Glasgow Green. ***Tel*** *0141 2760788.* ○ *10am–5pm Mon–Thu & Sat, 11am–5pm Fri & Sun.* ● *1 & 2 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.glasgowmuseums.com

This Victorian sandstone structure was built in 1898 as a cultural museum for the people of Glasgow's East End. It houses everything from temperance tracts to trade-union banners, suffragette posters to comedian Billy Connolly's banana-shaped boots, providing a social history of the city from the 12th century. A conservatory at the back contains an exotic winter garden.

🏛 Glasgow School of Art

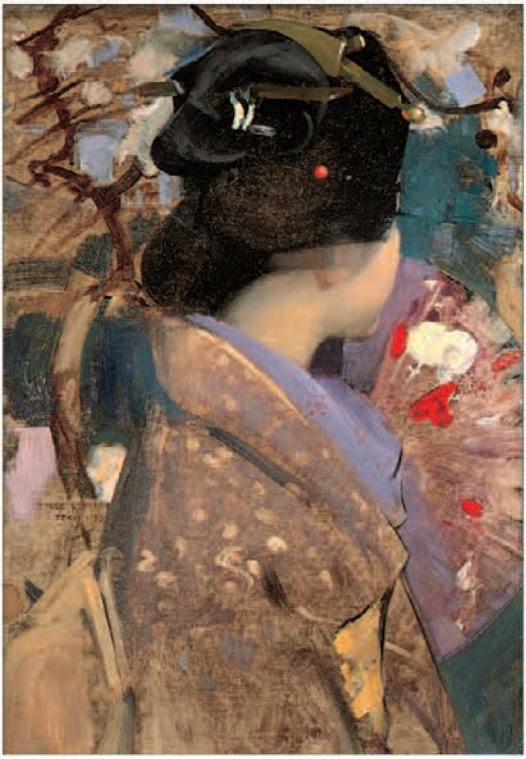
167 Renfrew St. ***Tel*** *0141 3534500.* ○ *by appointment only.* ✋ 👉 ♿ *limited.* **www**.gsa.ac.uk

Widely considered to be Charles Rennie Mackintosh's greatest architectural work, the Glasgow School of Art was built between 1897 and 1909 to a design he submitted in a competition. It was built in two periods due to financial constraints. The later, western wing displays a softer design than the more severe eastern half, built only a few years earlier and compared by a contemporary critic to a prison.

A student guide takes you through the building to the Furniture Gallery, Board Room and the Library, the latter a masterpiece of spatial composition. Each room is an exercise in contrasts between height, light and shade with innovative details echoing the architectural themes of the structure. How much of the school can be viewed depends on curricular requirements at the time of visiting.

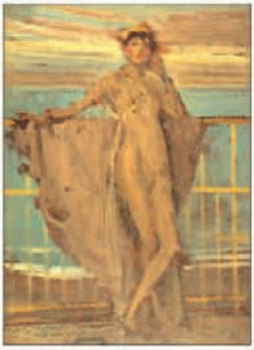
🏛 Hunterian Art Gallery

82 Hillhead St. ***Tel*** *0141 3304221.* ○ *times may vary – call to check.* ● *24 Dec–5 Jan & public hols.* 🛍 ♿ *limited.* **www**.hunterian.gla.ac.uk



George Henry's *Japanese Lady with a Fan* (1894), Kelvingrove Art Gallery

Built to house a number of paintings bequeathed to Glasgow University by ex-student and physician Dr William Hunter (1718–83), the Hunterian Art Gallery contains Scotland's largest print collection and works by major European artists stretching back to the 16th century. A collection of work by Charles Mackintosh is supplemented by a complete reconstruction of No. 6 Florentine Terrace, where he lived from 1906 to 1914. A major collection of 19th- and 20th-century Scottish art includes work by William McTaggart (1835–1910), but the gallery's most famous collection is of work by the painter James McNeill Whistler (1834–1903).



Whistler's *Sketch for Annabel Lee* (c.1869), Hunterian Art Gallery

🏛 Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

Argyle St, Kelvingrove. ***Tel*** *0141 276 9599.* ○ *10am–5pm Mon–Thu & Sat, 11am–5pm Fri & Sun.* ● *1 & 2 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* **www**.glasgowmuseums.com

The imposing red sandstone building that is Kelvingrove is a striking Glasgow landmark – even though it was supposedly built the wrong way round – and the gallery and museum is the most visited in Scotland. Having undergone a major (£27.9 million) refurbishment, the gallery and museum house an impressive array of art and artifacts. The outstanding collection has paintings of inestimable value, including works by Botticelli, Giorgione (*The Adulteress Brought Before Christ*), Rembrandt and Dalí (*Christ of St John of the Cross, see p517*). Its impressive representation of 17th-century Dutch and 19th-century French art is augmented by the home-grown talent of the Glasgow Boys and the Scottish Colourists.

The Georgian Pollok House, viewed from the south

🏛 Pollok House

(NTS) 2060 Pollokshaws Rd. ***Tel*** *(0141) 616 6410.* ○ *10am–5pm daily.* ● *1 & 2 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec.* ♿ *Apr–Oct only.* **www**.nts.org.uk

Pollok House is Glasgow's finest 18th-century domestic building and contains one of Britain's best collections of Spanish paintings. The Neo-Classical central block was finished in 1750, the sobriety of its exterior contrasting with the exuberant plasterwork within. The Maxwells have lived at Pollok since the mid-13th century, but the male line ended with Sir John Maxwell, who added the grand entrance hall in the 1890s and designed most of the terraced gardens and parkland beyond.

Hanging above the family silver, porcelain, hand-painted Chinese wallpaper and Jacobean glass, the Stirling Maxwell collection is strong on British and Dutch schools, including William Blake's *Sir Geoffrey Chaucer and the Nine and Twenty Pilgrims* (1745) and William Hogarth's portrait of James Thomson, who wrote the words to *Rule Britannia*.

Spanish 16th- to 19th-century art predominates: El Greco's *Lady in a Fur Wrap* (1541) hangs in the library, while the drawing room contains works by Francisco de Goya and Esteban Murillo. In 1966 Anne Maxwell Macdonald gave the house and 146 ha (361 acres) of parkland to the City of Glasgow. The park provides the site for the city's fascinating Burrell Collection.

Glasgow: The Burrell Collection

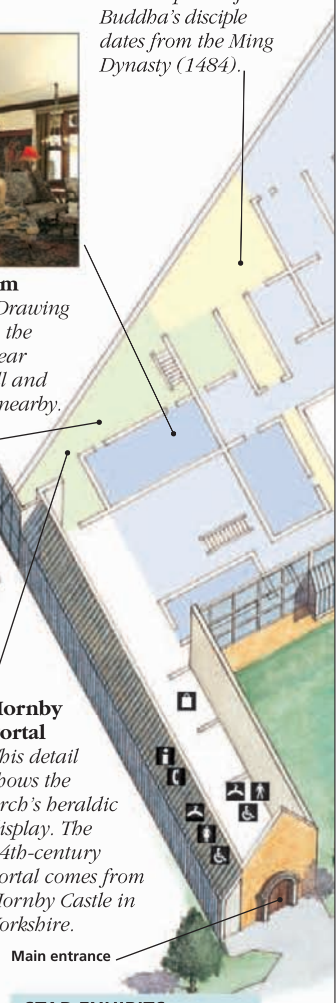
Given to the city in 1944 by Sir William Burrell (1861–1958), a wealthy shipping owner, this internationally acclaimed collection is the jewel in Glasgow's crown, with objects of major importance in numerous fields of interest. The building was purpose-built in 1983. In the sun, the stained glass blazes with colour, while the shaded tapestries seem a part of the surrounding woodland.

Figure of a Lohan
This sculpture of Buddha's disciple dates from the Ming Dynasty (1484).

Hutton Castle Drawing Room
This is a reconstruction of the Drawing Room at Burrell's own home – the 16th-century Hutton Castle, near Berwick-upon-Tweed. The Hall and Dining Room can also be seen nearby.

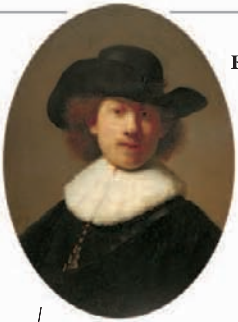
Bull's Head
Dating from the 7th century BC, this bronze head from Turkey was once part of a cauldron handle.

Hornby Portal
This detail shows the arch's heraldic display. The 14th-century portal comes from Hornby Castle in Yorkshire.

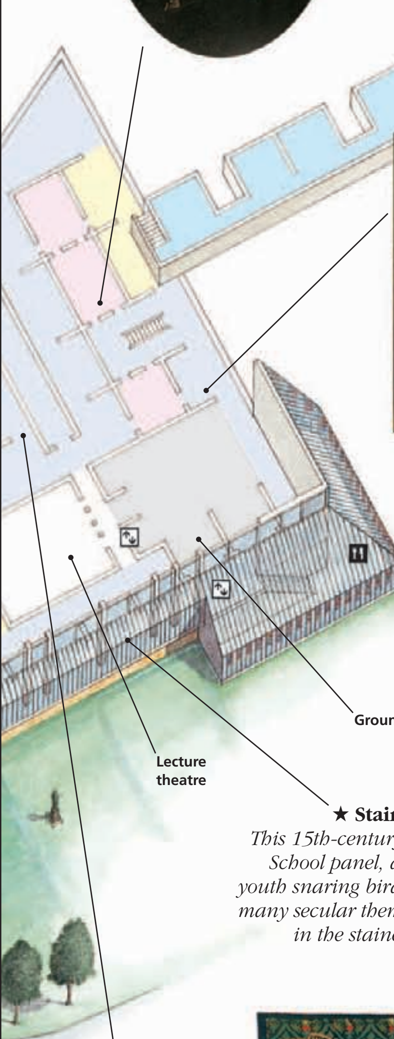


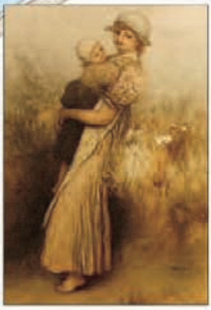
STAR EXHIBITS

- ★ Stained Glass
- ★ Tapestries

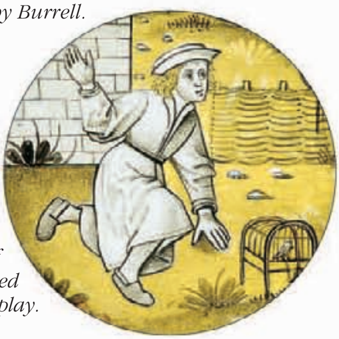


Rembrandt van Rijn
This self-portrait, signed and dated 1632, has pride of place among the paintings hanging in the 16th- and 17th-century room.

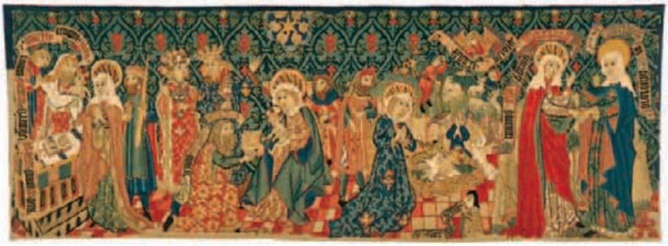




Matthijs Maris
This popular Dutch painter's ethereal style appealed to late 19th-century tastes. The Sisters *(1875) is one of over 50 Maris works acquired by Burrell.*



★ Stained Glass
This 15th-century Norwich School panel, depicting a youth snaring birds, is one of many secular themes illustrated in the stained-glass display.



★ Tapestries
Scenes from the Life of the Virgin *(c.1450), a Swiss work in wool and linen, is one of many tapestries on show.*

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

2060 Pollokshaws Rd, Glasgow. **Tel** *(0141) 287 2550.* 🚉 *Pollokshaws West.* 🚌 *45, 47, 48, 57 from Glasgow.* 🕘 *10am–5pm Mon–Thu, Sat; 11am–5pm Fri, Sun.* 🍴 ☕ 🚫 ⚙ ✋ ♿ 🛍 🧥
www.glasgowmuseums.com

GALLERY GUIDE

Except for a mezzanine-floor display of paintings, the exhibitions are on the ground floor. Right of the entrance hall, rooms are devoted to tapestries, stained glass and sculpture, while ancient civilizations, Oriental art and the period galleries are ahead.

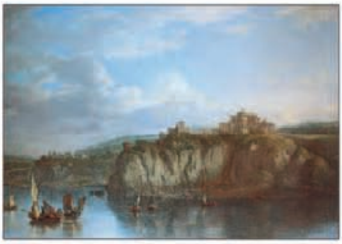
KEY TO FLOORPLAN

- 🟩 Ancient civilizations
- 🟨 Oriental art
- ▨ Medieval and post-medieval European art, stained glass and tapestries
- 🟥 Period galleries
- 🟪 Hutton Castle Rooms
- 🟦 Paintings and drawings
- ⬜ Temporary exhibition area

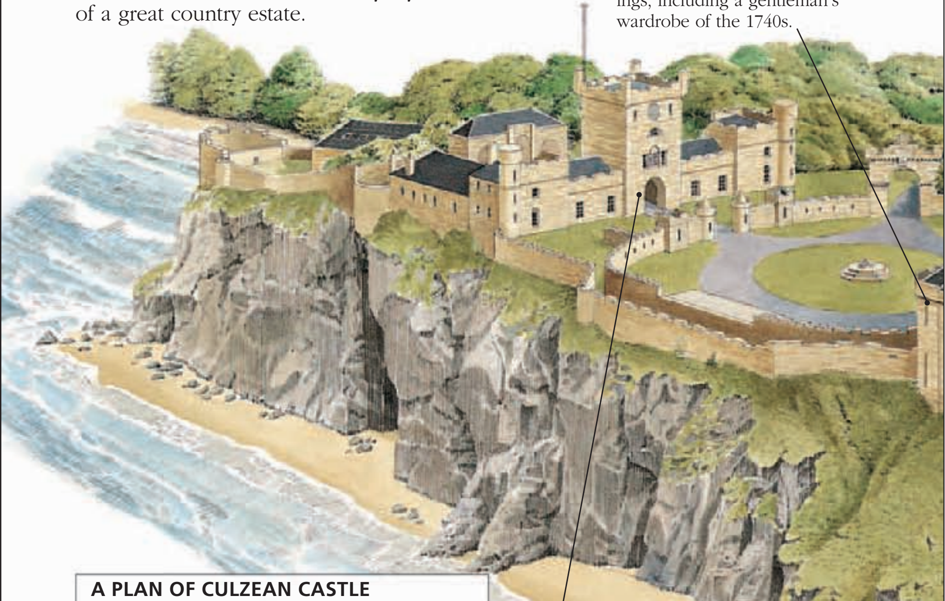
Culzean Castle ㉚

Robert Adam **by George Willison**

Standing on a cliff's edge in an extensive parkland estate, the 16th-century keep of Culzean (pronounced Cullayn), home of the Earls of Cassillis, was remodelled between 1777 and 1792 by the Neo-Classical architect Robert Adam *(see p28)*. Restored in the 1970s, it is now a major showcase of his later work. The grounds became Scotland's first public country park in 1969 and, with farming flourishing alongside ornamental gardens, they reflect both the leisure and everyday activities of a great country estate.



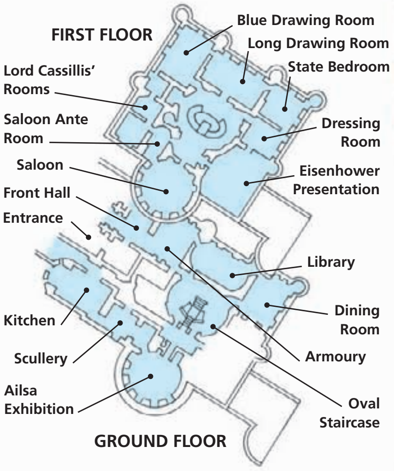
View of Culzean Castle **(c.1815), by Nasmyth**



Lord Cassillis' Rooms contain typical mid-18th-century furnishings, including a gentleman's wardrobe of the 1740s.

The clock tower, fronted by the circular carriageway, was originally the coach house and stables. The clock was added in the 19th century, and today the buildings are used for residential and educational purposes and a shop.

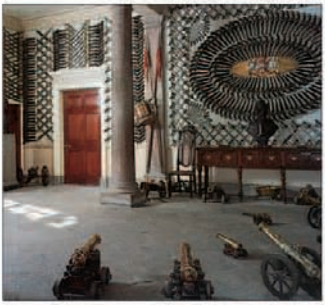
A PLAN OF CULZEAN CASTLE


FIRST FLOOR
Blue Drawing Room
Long Drawing Room
State Bedroom
Lord Cassillis' Rooms
Saloon Ante Room
Dressing Room
Saloon
Eisenhower Presentation
Front Hall
Entrance
Library
Kitchen
Dining Room
Scullery
Armoury
Ailsa Exhibition
Oval Staircase
GROUND FLOOR

STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Saloon
- ★ Oval Staircase

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp594–596 and pp646–649



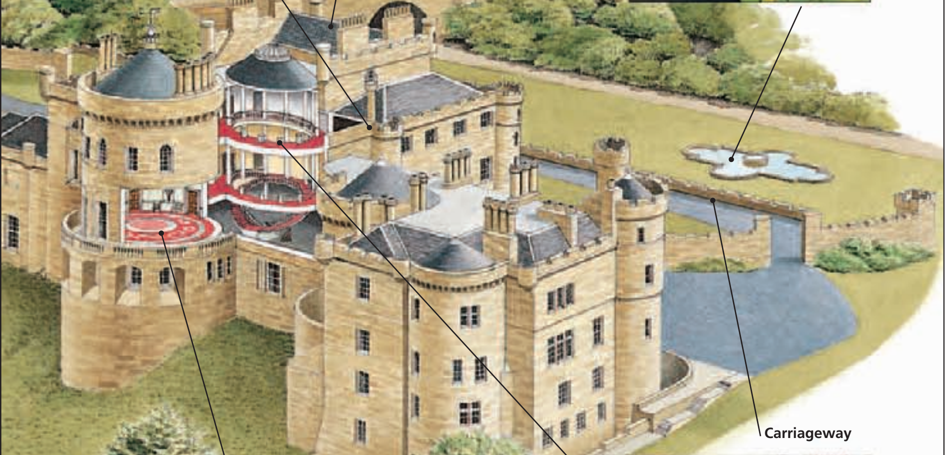
Armoury
Displayed on the walls is the world's most important collection of flintlock pistols, used by the British Army and Militia between the 1730s and 1830s.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

(NTS) 4 miles (6 km) West of Maybole. ***Tel*** *0844 493 2149.* 🚆 *Ayr, then bus.* **Castle** ○ *Apr–Oct: 10:30am–5pm daily (last adm: 4pm).* **Grounds** ○ *dawn until dusk daily.* 🛍 ♿ 🍴 **www**.culzeanexperience.org

Fountain Court
This sunken garden is a good place to begin a tour of the grounds to the east.

The Eisenhower Presentation honours the general who was given the top floor of Culzean in gratitude for his role in World War II.



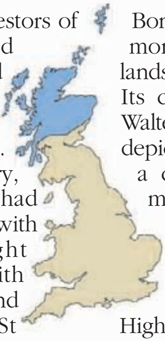
★ Oval Staircase
Illuminated by an overarching skylight, the staircase, with its Ionic and Corinthian pillars, is considered one of Adam's finest achievements.

★ Saloon
With its restored 18th-century colour scheme and Louis XVI chairs, this elegant saloon perches on the cliff's edge 46 m (150 ft) above the Firth of Clyde. The carpet is a copy of the one designed by Adam.

THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

ABERDEENSHIRE · MORAY · ARGYLL & BUTE · PERTH & KINROSS
SHETLAND · ORKNEY · WESTERN ISLES · HIGHLANDS · ANGUS

Most of the stock images of Scottishness – clans and tartans, whisky and porridge, bagpipes and heather – originate in the Highlands and enrich the popular picture of Scotland as a whole. But for many centuries the Gaelic-speaking, cattle-raising Highlanders had little in common with their southern neighbours.



Clues to the non-Celtic ancestors of the Highlanders lie scattered across the Highlands and Islands in the form of stone circles, brochs and cairns some over 5,000 years old. By the end of the 6th century, the Gaelic-speaking Celts had arrived from Ireland, along with St Columba who taught Christianity. Its fusion with Viking culture in the 8th and 9th centuries produced St Magnus Cathedral in the Orkney Isles.

For over 1,000 years, Celtic Highland society was founded on a clan system, built on family ties to create loyal groups dependent on a feudal chief.

However, the clans were systematically broken up by England after 1746, following the defeat of the Jacobite attempt on the British crown, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie *(see p521)*. A more romantic vision of the Highlands started in the early 19th century. Its creation was largely due to Sir Walter Scott, whose novels and poetry depicted the majesty and grandeur of a country previously considered merely poverty-stricken and barbaric. Another great popularizer was Queen Victoria, whose passion for Balmoral helped to establish the trend for acquiring Highland sporting estates. But behind the sentimentality lay harsh economic realities that drove generations of Highlanders to seek a new life overseas.

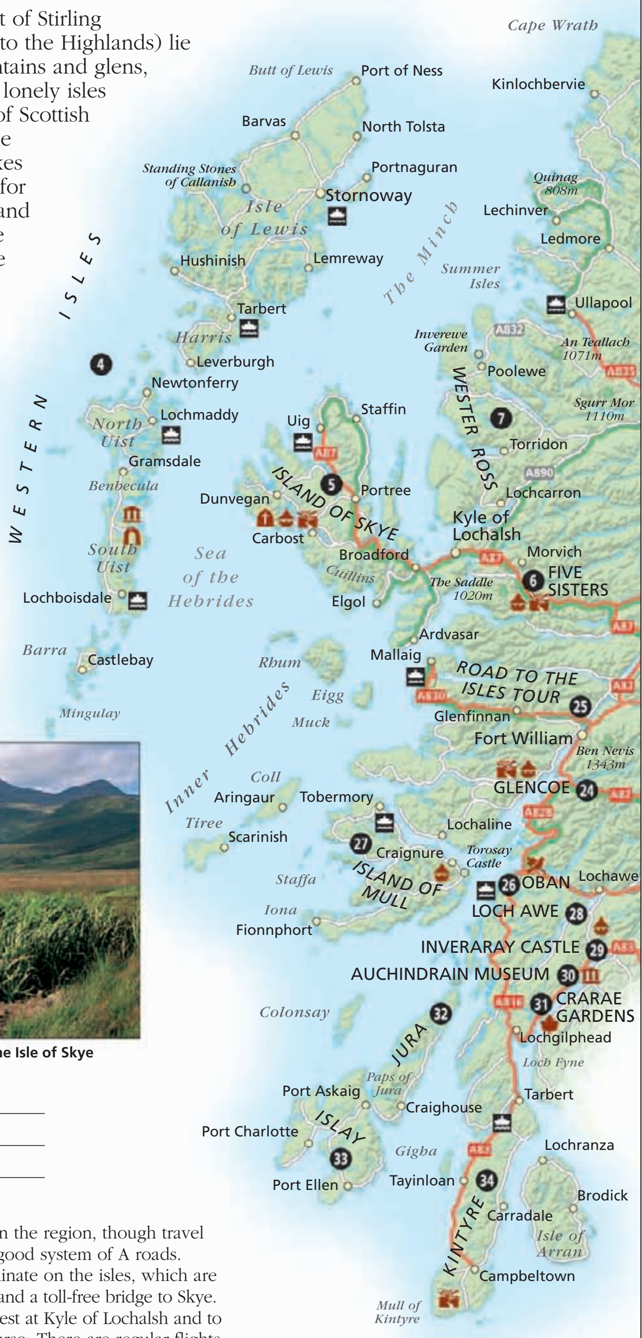
Today, over half the inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands still live in communities of less than 1,000. Oil and tourism have supplemented fishing and whisky as the main businesses and population figures are rising.

A wintry dawn over the Cairngorms, the home of Britain's only herd of reindeer

◁ **The stunningly sited castle of Eilean Donan, Loch Duich in Glen Shiel**

Exploring the Highlands and Islands

To the north and west of Stirling (the historic gateway to the Highlands) lie the magnificent mountains and glens, fretted coastlines and lonely isles that are the epitome of Scottish scenery. Inverness, the Highland capital, makes a good starting point for exploring Loch Ness and the Cairngorms, while Fort William holds the key to Ben Nevis. Inland from Aberdeen lie Royal Deeside and the Spey Valley whisky heartland. The romantic Hebrides can be reached by ferry from Oban or Ullapool.


0 kilometres 25
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Cape Wrath
Butt of Lewis
Port of Ness
Kinlochbervie
Barvas
North Tolsta
Standing Stones of Callanish
Portnaguran
Quinag 808m
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
Lechinver
Ledmore
Hushinish
Lemreway
The Minch
Summer Isles
WESTERN ISLES
Tarbert
Ullapool
Harris
A832
An Teallach 1071m
Inverewe Garden
4
Leverburgh
Poolewe
Newtonferry
A835
WESTER ROSS
North Uist
Lochmaddy
Uig
Staffin
Sgurr Mor 1110m
7
Torridon
Gramsdale
A87
Benbecula
ISLAND OF SKYE
5
A890
Dunvegan
Portree
Lochcarron
Kyle of Lochalsh
Carbost
South Uist
Sea of the Hebrides
Broadford
Morvich
A87
Cuillins
FIVE SISTERS
6
The Saddle 1020m
Lochboisdale
Elgol
A87
Ardvasar
Barra
Castlebay
Rhum
Mallaig
ROAD TO THE ISLES TOUR
A830
Eigg
A82
25
Mingulay
Muck
Glenfinnan
Inner Hebrides
Fort William
Ben Nevis 1343m
Coll
GLENCOE
24
Aringaur
Tobermory
A82
Tiree
Lochaline
A828
Scarinish
27
Craignure
Torosay Castle
ISLAND OF MULL
Staffa
26
OBAN
Lochawe
Iona
LOCH AWE
28
Fionnphort
INVERARAY CASTLE
29
A83
AUCHINDRAIN MUSEUM
30
A816
31
CRARAE GARDENS
Colonsay
32
JURA
Lochgilphead
Loch Fyne
Paps of Jura
Port Askaig
Tarbert
Craighouse
ISLAY
Port Charlotte
A83
Lochranza
Gigha
33
Port Ellen
Tayinloan
34
Brodick
KINTYRE
Carradale
Isle of Arran
Campbeltown
Mull of Kintyre

Highland cattle grazing on the Isle of Skye

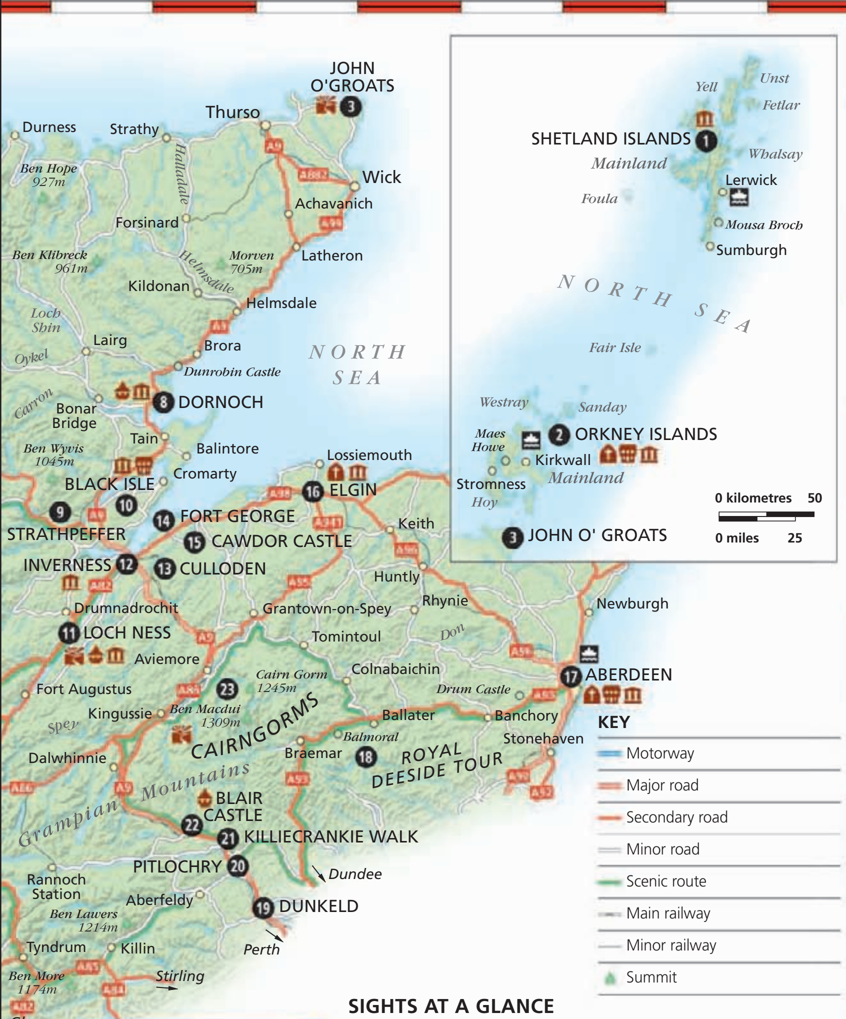
SEE ALSO

- ***Where to Stay*** pp596–9
- ***Where to Eat*** pp649–51

GETTING AROUND

There are no motorways in the region, though travel by car is made easy by a good system of A roads. Single-track roads predominate on the isles, which are served by a ferry network and a toll-free bridge to Skye. The rail link ends to the west at Kyle of Lochalsh and to the north at Wick and Thurso. There are regular flights from Edinburgh to Inverness, Aberdeen and Wick.

For additional map symbols *see back flap*


JOHN O'GROATS ③
Thurso
Durness
Strathy
Halladale
Ben Hope 927m
Wick
Achavanich
Forsinard
Ben Klibreck 961m
Helmsdale
Morven 705m
Latheron
Kildonan
Helmsdale
Loch Shin
Lairg
Brora
Oykel
Dunrobin Castle
NORTH SEA
Carron
Bonar Bridge
⑧ DORNOCH
Tain
Balintore
Ben Wyvis 1045m
Cromarty
Lossiemouth
BLACK ISLE ⑩
⑯ ELGIN
⑨
⑭ FORT GEORGE
Keith
STRATHPEFFER
⑮ CAWDOR CASTLE
INVERNESS ⑫
⑬ CULLODEN
Huntly
Drumnadrochit
Grantown-on-Spey
Rhynie
⑪ LOCH NESS
Tomintoul
Don
Aviemore
Cairn Gorm 1245m
Colnabaichin
Fort Augustus
㉓
Drum Castle
Kingussie
Ben Macdui 1309m
Ballater
Banchory
Spey
CAIRNGORMS
Balmoral
Dalwhinnie
Braemar
⑱ ROYAL DEESIDE TOUR
Stonehaven
Grampian Mountains
BLAIR CASTLE ㉒
㉑ KILLIECRANKIE WALK
PITLOCHRY ⑳
Dundee
Rannoch Station
Aberfeldy
⑲ DUNKELD
Ben Lawers 1214m
Tyndrum
Killin
Perth
Ben More 1174m
Stirling
Glasgow
Newburgh
⑰ ABERDEEN
A9
A882
A99
A9
A96
A941
A95
A82
A86
A93
A90
A92
A85
A84
A82
A83
Unst
Yell
Fetlar
SHETLAND ISLANDS ①
Mainland
Whalsay
Lerwick
Foula
Mousa Broch
Sumburgh
NORTH SEA
Fair Isle
Westray
Sanday
Maes Howe
② ORKNEY ISLANDS
Kirkwall
Stromness
Mainland
Hoy
③ JOHN O' GROATS
0 kilometres 50
0 miles 25
KEY
Motorway
Major road
Secondary road
Minor road
Scenic route
Main railway
Minor railway
Summit

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Aberdeen ⑰
Auchindrain Museum ㉚
Black Isle ⑩
Blair Castle ㉒
Cairngorms pp544–5 ㉓
Cawdor Castle ⑮
Crarae Gardens ㉛
Culloden ⑬
Dornoch ⑧
Dunkeld ⑲
Elgin ⑯
Five Sisters ⑥
Fort George ⑭
Glencoe ㉔
Inveraray Castle ㉙
Inverness ⑫
Islay ㉝
John o'Groats ③

Jura ㉜
Kintyre ㉞
Loch Awe ㉘
Loch Ness ⑪
Mull ㉗
Oban ㉖
Orkney ②
Pitlochry ⑳
Shetland ①
Skye pp534–5 ⑤
Strathpeffer ⑨
Western Isles ④
Wester Ross ⑦

Walks and Tours

Killiecrankie Walk ㉑
Road to the Isles Tour ㉕
Royal Deeside Tour ⑱

Colour-washed houses at the harbour of Tobermory, Mull

Shetland ❶

Shetland. 👥 *22,000.* ✈ ⛴ *from Aberdeen and Stromness on mainland Orkney.* ℹ *Lerwick (01595 693434).* **www**.visitshetland.com

Lying six degrees south of the Arctic Circle, the rugged Shetland islands are Britain's most northerly region and were, with Orkney, part of the kingdom of Norway until 1469. In the main town of Lerwick, this Norse heritage is remembered during the ancient midwinter festival Up Helly Aa *(see p480),* in which costumed revellers set fire to a replica Viking longship. Also in the town, the **Shetland Museum** tells the story of a people dependent on the sea, right up to modern times with the discovery of North Sea oil and gas in the 1970s.

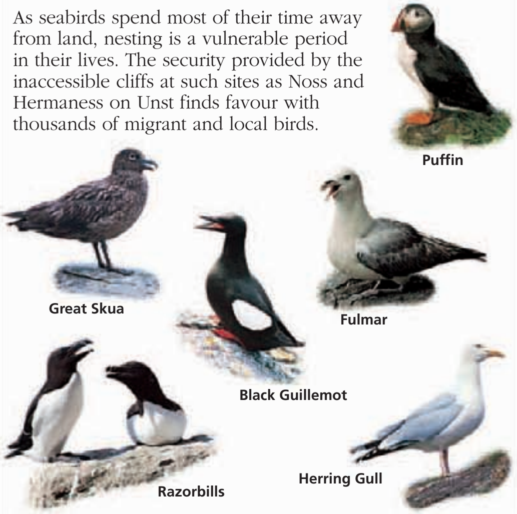
The Iron Age tower, **Mousa Broch**, can be visited on its isle by boat from Sandwick. There is more ancient history at Jarlshof where a museum explains the sprawling sea-front ruins which span 3,000 years.

A boat from Lerwick sails to the isle of Noss where grey seals bask beneath sandstone cliffs crowded with Shetland's seabirds – a spectacle best seen between May and June. Other wildlife includes otters and killer whales.

🏛 **Shetland Museum**
Hay's Dock, Lerwick. ***Tel*** *01595 695057.* ○ *daily (pm only Sun).*
www.shetland-museum.org.uk

THE SHETLAND SEABIRD ISLES

As seabirds spend most of their time away from land, nesting is a vulnerable period in their lives. The security provided by the inaccessible cliffs at such sites as Noss and Hermaness on Unst finds favour with thousands of migrant and local birds.



Orkney ❷

Orkney. 👥 *19,800.* ✈ ⛴ *from Gills Bay, Caithness; John o'Groats (May–Sep); Scrabster, Aberdeen.* ℹ *Broad St, Kirkwall (01856 872856).* **www**.visitorkney.com

The fertile isles of Orkney are remarkable for the wealth of prehistoric monuments which place them among Europe's most treasured archaeological sites. In the town of Kirkwall, the sandstone **St Magnus Cathedral** stands amid a charming core of narrow streets. Its many interesting tombs include that of its 12th-century patron saint. Nearby, the early 17th-century **Earl's Palace** is widely held to be one of Scotland's finest Renaissance buildings. To the west of Kirkwall lies Britain's most impressive chambered tomb, the cairn of **Maes Howe**. Dating from 2000 BC, the tomb has runic graffiti on its walls believed to have been left by Norsemen returning from the crusades in 1150.

Nearby, the great **Standing Stones of Stenness** may have been associated with Maes Howe rituals, though these still remain a mystery. Further west, on a bleak heath, stands the Bronze Age **Ring of Brodgar**.

Another archaeological treasure can be found in the Bay of Skail – the complete Stone Age village of **Skara Brae**. It was unearthed by a storm in 1850, after lying buried for 4,500 years. Further south, the town of Stromness was a vital centre of Scotland's herring industry in the 18th century. Its story is told in the local museum, while the **Pier Arts Centre** displays British and international art.

The Norman façade of the St Magnus Cathedral, Orkney

🏰 **Earl's Palace**
Palace Rd, Kirkwall. ***Tel*** *01856 871918.* ○ *call to check.* 🎫 ♿ *ltd.*
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

🏛 **Pier Arts Centre**
Victoria St, Stromness. ***Tel*** *01856 850209.* ○ *11am–5pm daily.*
www.pierartscentre.com

John o'Groats ❸

Highland. 👥 *500.* ✈ 🚆 🚌 *Wick* ⛴ *John o'Groats to Burwick, Orkney (May–Sep).* ℹ *John o'Groats (01955 611373).*

Some 876 miles (1,409 km) north from Land's End, Britain's most northeasterly mainland village faces Orkney, 8 miles (13 km) across the turbulent Pentland Firth. The village takes its name from a 15th-century Dutchman John de Groot, who, to avoid accusations of favouritism, is said to have built an octagonal house here with one door for each of his eight heirs. The spectacular cliffs and rock stacks of Duncansby Head lie a few miles further east.

Western Isles ④

Western Scotland ends with this remote chain of islands, made of some of the oldest rock on Earth. Almost treeless landscapes are divided by countless waterways, the western, windward coasts edged by miles of white sandy beaches. For centuries, the eastern shores, composed largely of peat bogs, have provided the islanders with fuel. Man has been here for 6,000 years, living off the sea and the thin turf, though such monuments as an abandoned Norwegian whaling station on Harris attest to the difficulties in commercializing the islanders' traditional skills. Gaelic, part of an enduring culture, is widely spoken.

The Black House Museum, a traditional croft on Lewis

The monumental Standing Stones of Callanish in northern Lewis

Lewis and Harris

Western Isles. 👥 *22,000.* ✈ *Stornoway.* ⛴ *Uig (Skye), Ullapool, Kyle of Lochalsh.* ℹ *Stornoway, Lewis (01851 703088).*
www.visithebrides.com
Black House Museum. ***Tel*** *01851 710395.* ○ *9:30am–4pm daily (to 5:30pm in summer).* 💰 ♿ 👉 🛍

Forming the largest landmass of the Western Isles, Lewis and Harris are a single island, though Gaelic dialects differ between the two areas. From **Stornoway**, with its bustling harbour and colourful house fronts, the ancient **Standing Stones of Callanish** are only 16 miles (26 km) to the west. Just off the road on the way to Callanish are the ruins of **Carloway Broch**, a Pictish *(see p482)* tower over 2,000 years old. The more recent past can be explored at Arnol's **Black House Museum** – a showcase of crofting life as it was until only 50 years ago.

South of the rolling peat moors of Lewis, a range of mountains marks the border with Harris, which one enters as one passes Aline Lodge at the head of Loch Seaforth. Only a little less spectacular than the "Munros" (peaks over 914 m; 3,000 ft) of the mainland and the Isle of Skye *(see pp534–5),* the mountains of Harris are a paradise for the hillwalker and, from their summits on a clear day, the distant Isle of St Kilda can be seen 50 miles (80 km) to the west.

The ferry port of Tarbert stands on a slim isthmus separating North and South Harris. Some local weavers of the famous Harris Tweed still follow the old tradition of using plants to make their dyes.

From the port of Leverburgh, close to the southern tip of Harris, a ferry can be taken to the isle of North Uist, where a causeway has been built to Berneray.

The Uists, Benbecula and Barra

Western Isles. 👥 *7,200.* ✈ *Barra, Benbecula.* ⛴ *Uig (Skye), Ullapool, Oban.* 🚌 🚆 *Oban, Mallaig, Kyle of Lochalsh.* ℹ *Lochmaddy, North Uist (01876 500321); Lochboisdale, South Uist (01878 700286); Castlebay, Barra (01871 810336).*
www.visithebrides.com

After the dramatic scenery of Harris, the lower-lying, largely waterlogged southern isles may seem an anticlimax, though they nurture secrets well worth discovering. Long, white, sandy beaches fringe the Atlantic coast, edged with one of Scotland's natural treasures: the lime-rich soil known as *machair*. During the summer months, the soil is covered with wild flowers.

From **Lochmaddy**, North Uist's main village, the A867 crosses 3 miles (5 km) of causeway to Benbecula, the isle from which Flora MacDonald smuggled Bonnie Prince Charlie *(see p535)* to Skye. Another causeway leads to South Uist, with its golden beaches renowned as a National Scenic Area. From Lochboisdale, a ferry sails to the tiny isle of Barra. The ferry docks in Castlebay, affording an unforgettable view of **Kisimul Castle**, the ancestral stronghold of the MacNeils of Barra.

The remote and sandy shores of South Uist

The western side of the Five Sisters of Kintail, seen from above Loch Duich

Skye ❺

See pp534–5.

The Five Sisters ❻

Skye & Lochalsh. 🚆 *Kyle of Lochalsh.* 🚌 *Glenshiel.* ℹ *Bayfield Road, Portree, Isle of Skye (0845 2255121).* **www**.visithighlands.com

Dominating one of Scotland's most haunting regions, the awesome summits of the Five Sisters of Kintail rear into view at the northern end of Loch Cluanie as the A87 enters Glen Shiel. The **Visitor Centre** at Morvich offers ranger-led excursions in the summer. Further west, the road passes **Eilean Donan Castle**, connected by a bridge. A Jacobite *(see p537)* stronghold, it was destroyed in 1719 by English warships. In the 19th century it was restored and now contains Jacobite relics.

🏰 **Eilean Donan Castle**
Off A87, nr Dornie. ***Tel*** *01599 555 202.* 🕐 *mid-Mar–Oct: 10am–6pm; (to 5:30pm Nov–mid-Mar; from 9am Jul–Aug) daily.* 💰

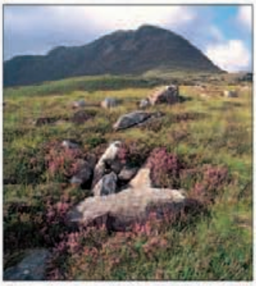
Wester Ross ❼

Ross & Cromarty. 🚆 *Achnasheen, Strathcarron.* ℹ *Gairloch (01445 712130).* **www**.visithighlands.com

Leaving Loch Carron to the south, the A890 enters the northern Highlands and the great wilderness of Wester Ross. The Torridon Estate includes some of the oldest mountains on Earth (Torridonian rock is over 600 million years old), and is home to red deer, wild cats and wild goats. Peregrine falcons and golden eagles nest in the towering sandstone mass of Liathach, above the village of Torridon with its breathtaking views over Applecross to Skye. The **Torridon Countryside Centre** provides guided walks in season and information on the region's natural history. The estate is open all year.

To the north, the A832 cuts through the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve in which remnants of the ancient Caledonian pine forest still stand on the banks and isles of Loch Maree.

Along the coast, exotic gardens thrive in the warming currents of the Gulf Stream, most impressive being **Inverewe Garden** created in 1862 by Osgood Mackenzie (1842–1922). May and June are the months to see the display of rhododendrons and azaleas; July and August for the herbaceous borders.



Typical Torridonian mountian scenery in the Wester Ross

🏛 **Torridon Countryside Centre**
(NTS) Torridon. ***Tel*** *0844 493 2229.* 🕐 *Apr–Sep: 10am–5pm Mon–Fri & Sun.* **Estate** 🕐 *daily all year.* 💰 ♿
www.nts.org.uk

🍁 **Inverewe Garden**
(NTS) off A832, nr Poolewe.
Tel *0844 493 2225.* 🕐 *daily.* 💰 ♿

Dornoch ❽

Sutherland. 👥 *2,200.* 🚆 *Golspie, Tain.* ℹ *The Square, Dornoch (08452 255121).* **www**.visithighlands.com

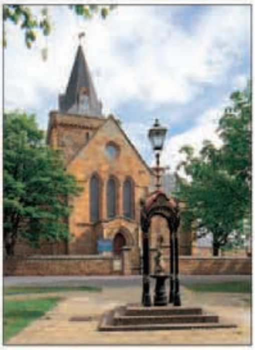
With its first-class golf course and extensive sandy beaches, **Dornoch** is a popular holiday resort, though it has retained a peaceful atmosphere. Now the parish church, the medieval cathedral was all but destroyed in a clan dispute in 1570; it was finally restored in the 1920s for its 700th anniversary. A stone at the beach end of River Street marks the place where Janet Horne, the last woman to be tried in Scotland for witchcraft, was executed in 1722.

Environs: Twelve miles (19 km) northeast of Dornoch is the stately Victorianized pile of **Dunrobin Castle**, magnificently situated in a great park with formal gardens overlooking the sea. Since the 13th century, this has been the seat of the Earls of Sutherland. Many of its rooms are open to visitors. A steam-powered fire engine is among the miscellany of objects on display.

South of Dornoch stands the town of **Tain**. Though patronized by medieval kings as a place of pilgrimage, it became an administrative centre of the Highland Clearances. All is explained in the heritage centre, **Tain Through Time**.

♜ Dunrobin Castle
Nr Golspie. ***Tel*** *01408 633177.*
○ *Apr, May, Sep & Oct: 10:30am–4:30pm daily (from noon Sun); Jun–Aug: 10:30am–4:30pm daily. Falconry displays: 11:30am & 2pm.* 🚫

🏛 Tain Through Time
Tower St. ***Tel*** *01862 894089.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 10am–5pm Mon–Sat.* 🚫
♿ 🛍 **www**.tainmuseum.org.uk



The serene cathedral precinct in the town of Dornoch

Strathpeffer ⑨

Ross & Cromarty. 👥 *1,400.* 🚆 *Dingwall, Inverness.* 🚌 *Inverness.*
ℹ *Visit Scotland (01463 731505).*
www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk

Standing 5 miles (8 km) from the Falls of Rogie and to the east of the Northwest Highlands, the popular town of Strathpeffer still has the refined charm for which it was well known in Victorian times, when it flourished as a spa and health resort. The grand hotels, individually designed buildings and gracious layout of Strathpeffer recall the days when royalty from all over Europe used to flock to the chalybeate- and sulphur-laden springs, which were believed to help in the cure of tuberculosis, and in the treatment of rheumatism.

The shores of the Black Isle in the Moray Firth

The Black Isle ⑩

Ross & Cromarty. 🚆 🚌 *Inverness.*
ℹ *Visit Scotland (01463 731505).*

Though the drilling platforms in the Cromarty Firth are reminders of how oil has changed the local economy, the peninsula of the Black Isle is still largely composed of farmland and fishing villages. The town of **Cromarty** was an important port in the 18th century, with thriving rope and lace industries. Many of its merchant houses still stand; the museum in the **Cromarty Courthouse** provides heritage tours of the town. The **Hugh Miller Museum** is a museum to the theologian and geologist Hugh Miller (1802–56), who was born in the cottage; adjacent is Miller House, with three floors of exhibition space. **Fortrose** boasts a ruined 14th-century cathedral, while a stone on Chanonry Point commemorates the Brahan Seer, a 17th-century prophet burnt alive in a tar barrel by the Countess of Seaforth after he foresaw her husband's infidelity. For local archaeology, visit **Groam House Museum** in Rosemarkie.

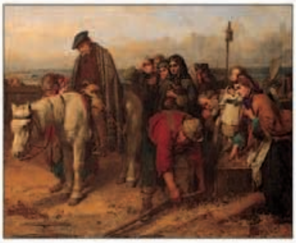
🏛 Cromarty Courthouse
Church St, Cromarty. ***Tel*** *01381 600 418.* ○ *by arrangement.* 🚫

🏠 Hugh Miller Museum
(NTS) Church St, Cromarty. ***Tel*** *0844 493 2158.* ○ *Apr–Sep: daily; Oct: Sun & Tue (pm).* 🚫 ♿ *limited.*

🏛 Groam House Museum
High St, Rosemarkie. ***Tel*** *01381 620961.* ○ *May–Oct: 10am–5pm daily (Sun pm); Apr: daily (pm); Nov: Sat & Sun (pm).*

THE HIGHLAND CLEARANCES

During the heyday of the clan system *(see p484),* tenants paid their clan chiefs rent for their land in the form of military service. However, with the decline of the clan system after the Battle of Culloden *(see p537)* and the coming of sheep from the borders, landowners were able to command a financial rent their tenants were unable to afford and the land was bought up by Lowland and English farmers. In what became known as "the year of the sheep" (1792), thousands of tenants were evicted to make way for sheep. Many emigrated to Australia, America and Canada. Ruins of their crofts can still be seen in Sutherland and Wester Ross.

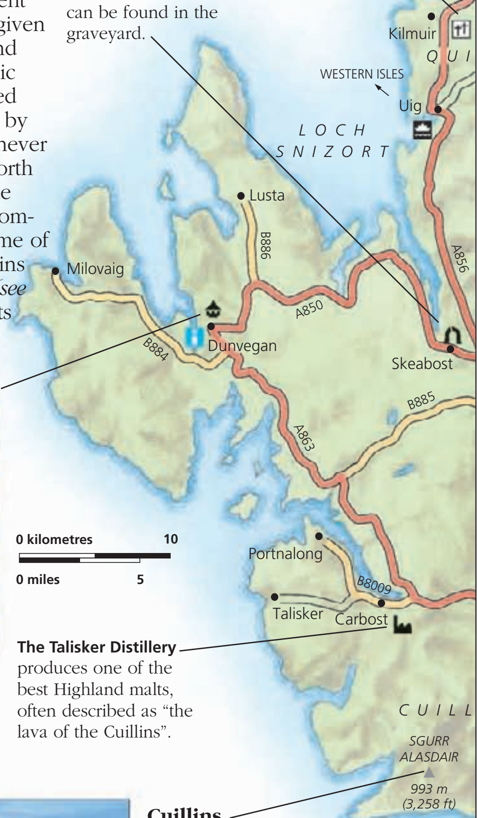


The Last of the Clan **(1865) by Thomas Faed**

Isle of Skye ㊱

Otter by the coast at Kylerhea

The largest of the Inner Hebrides, Skye can be reached by the bridge linking Kyle of Lochalsh and Kyleakin. A turbulent geological history has given the island some of Britain's most varied and dramatic scenery. From the rugged volcanic plateau of northern Skye to the ice-sculpted peaks of the Cuillins, the island is divided by numerous sea lochs, leaving the traveller never more than 8 km (5 miles) from the sea. North of the Dunvegan are small caves and white beaches, while Limestone grasslands predominate in the south, where the hillsides, home of sheep and cattle, are scattered with the ruins of crofts abandoned during the Clearances *(see p531)*. Historically, Skye is best known for its association with Bonnie Prince Charlie.


Kilmuir
QUI
WESTERN ISLES
Uig
LOCH SNIZORT
Lusta
B886
A856
Milovaig
A850
Dunvegan
B884
Skeabost
B885
A863
0 kilometres 10
0 miles 5
Portnalong
B8009
Talisker
Carbost
CUILL
SGURR ALASDAIR
993 m (3,258 ft)
SOAY

Skeabost has the ruins of a chapel which is associated with St Columba. Medieval tombstones can be found in the graveyard.

Grave of Flora MacDonald

The Talisker Distillery produces one of the best Highland malts, often described as "the lava of the Cuillins".

Dunvegan Castle
For over seven centuries, Dunvegan Castle has been the seat of the chiefs of the Clan MacLeod. It contains the Fairy Flag, a fabled piece of magic silk treasured for its protection in battle.

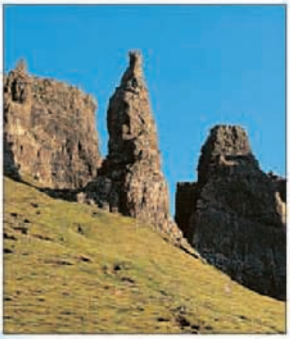
Cuillins
Britain's finest mountain range is within walking distance of Sligachan, and in summer a boat sails from Elgol to the desolate inner sanctuary of Loch Coruisk. As he fled across the surrounding moorland, Bonnie Prince Charlie is said to have claimed: "Even the Devil shall not follow me here!"

KEY

ℹ	Tourist information
🟥	Major road
🟨	Minor road
═	Narrow lane
✳	Viewpoint

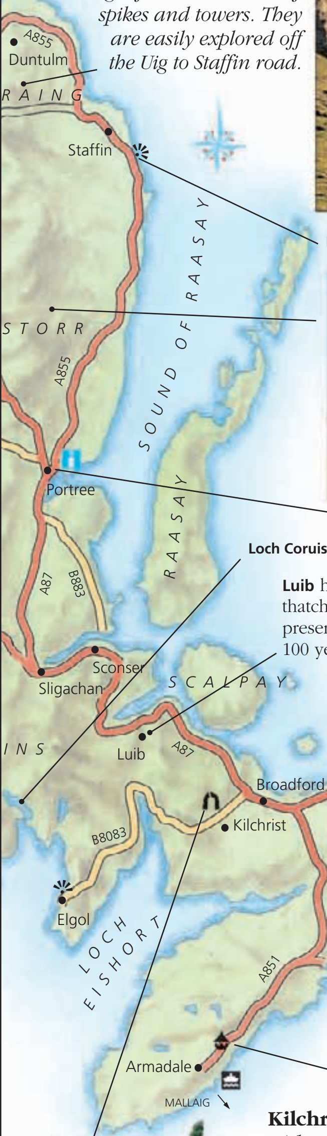
◁ **Dawn over the desolate tablelands of northern Skye, viewed from the Quiraing**

Quiraing
A series of landslides has exposed the roots of this volcanic plateau, revealing a fantastic terrain of spikes and towers. They are easily explored off the Uig to Staffin road.



VISITORS' CHECKLIST

The Highlands. 👥 *26,000.* 🚆 *Kyle of Lochalsh.* 🚌 *Portree.* ⛴ *from Mallaig or Glenelg (summer only).* ℹ *Bayfield House, Portree (0845 225 5121).* **www**.visithighlands.com **Dunvegan Castle** *Dunvegan.* ***Tel*** *01470 521206.* ○ *daily.* 🎟 ♿ *limited.* **www**.dunvegancastle.com **Armadale Castle**, *Armadale.* ***Tel*** *01471 844305.* ○ *Apr–Oct: daily (gardens open all year).* 🎟 ♿ **Talisker Distillery**, *Carbost.* ***Tel*** *01478 614308.* ○ *daily: call for details.* 🎟 ♿ *limited.* ☕


A855
Duntulm
RAING
Staffin
Kilt Rock
SOUND OF RAASAY
STORR
A855
Portree
RAASAY
A87
B883
Sconser
Sligachan
SCALPAY
INS
Luib
A87
Broadford
Kyleakin
KYLE OF LOCHALSH
A87
Kilchrist
B8083
Kylerhea
Elgol
LOCH EISHORT
A851
Armadale
MALLAIG

The Storr
The erosion of this basalt plateau has created the Old Man of Storr, a monolith rising to 49 m (160 ft) by the Portree road.

Portree
With its colourful harbour, Portree (meaning "port of the king") is Skye's metropolis. It received its name after a visit by James V in 1540.

Loch Coruisk

Luib has a beautiful thatched cottage, preserved as it was 100 years ago.

Bridge to mainland

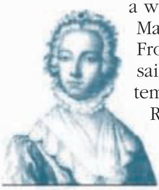
Otters can be seen from the haven in Kylerhea.

Armadale Castle Gardens and Museum of the Isles houses the Clan Donald visitor centre.

Kilchrist Church
This ruined pre-Reformation church's last service was held in 1843. It once served Skye's most populated areas, though the surrounding moors are now deserted.

BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE

The last of the Stuart claimants to the Crown, Charles Edward Stuart (1720–88), came to Scotland from France in 1745 to win the throne. After marching as far as Derby, his army was driven back to Culloden where it was defeated. Hounded for five months through the Highlands, he escaped to Skye, disguised as the maidservant of a woman called Flora MacDonald, from Uist. From the mainland, he sailed to France in September 1746, and died in Rome. Flora was buried in 1790 at Kilmuir, on Skye, wrapped in a sheet taken from the bed of the "bonnie" (handsome) prince.


The prince, disguised as a maidservant

The ruins of Urquhart Castle on the western shore of Loch Ness

Loch Ness ⑪

Inverness. 🚆 🚌 *Inverness.* ℹ *Castle Wynd, Inverness (01463 234353).*
www.visitlochness.com

At 24 miles (39 km) long, one mile (1.5 km) at its widest and up to 305 m (1,000 ft) deep, **Loch Ness** fills the northern half of the Great Glen fault from Fort William to Inverness. It is joined to lochs Oich and Lochy by the 22-mile (35-km) Caledonian Canal, designed by Thomas Telford *(see p447)*. On the western shore, the A82 passes the ruins of the 16th-century **Urquhart Castle**, which was blown up by government supporters in 1692 to prevent it falling into Jacobite hands. A short distance west, **Loch Ness 2000 Exhibition Centre** offers a wealth of audio-visual information.

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

First sighted by St Columba in the 6th century, "Nessie" has attracted increasing attention since ambiguous photographs were taken in the 1930s. Though serious investigation is often undermined by hoaxers, sonar techniques continue to yield enigmatic results: plesiosaurs, giant eels and too much whisky are the most popular explanations. Nessie appears to have a close relative in the waters of Loch Morar *(see p546)*.

Urquhart Castle
Nr Drumnadrochit.
***Tel** 01456 450551.*
○ *9:30am–6pm daily (Oct–Feb: to 4:30pm). (Last adm: 45 mins before closing.)* 🍴 🛍

Loch Ness 2000 Exhibition Centre
Drumnadrochit. ***Tel** 01456 450573.*
○ *Nov–Easter: 10am–3:30pm daily; Easter–Oct: 10am–5pm daily.* ♿
☕ 🛍 **www**.lochness.com

Inverness ⑫

Highland. 👥 *60,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *Castle Wynd (0845 2255121).*
www.visithighlands.com

As the Highland capital, Inverness makes an ideal base from which to explore the surrounding countryside. The Victorian castle dominates the town centre, the oldest buildings of which are found in nearby Church Street. Today the castle is used as law courts. The **Inverness Museum and Art Gallery** provides a good introduction to the history of the Highlands with exhibits including a lock of Bonnie Prince Charlie's *(see p535)* hair and a fine collection of Inverness silver. The **Scottish Kiltmaker Visitor Centre** explores the history and tradition of Scottish kilts as well as workshops, while those in search of tartans and knitwear should visit the **James Pringle Weavers of Inverness**.

Kilt maker with royal Stuart tartan

Jacobite Cruises run a variety of year-round cruises along the Caledonian Canal and on to Loch Ness. The unfolding scenery makes this a most pleasant and tranquil way to spend a sunny afternoon.

Museum and Art Gallery
Castle Wynd. ***Tel** 01463 237114.*
○ *10am–5pm Mon–Sat.* ♿
www.invernessmuseum.com

James Pringle Weavers of Inverness
Holm Woollen Mill, Dores Rd.
***Tel** 01463 223311.* ○ *daily.* ♿

Scottish Kiltmaker Visitor Centre
Huntly St. ***Tel** 01463 222781.*
○ *times vary – call to check.*
● *1 Jan, 25 Dec.*

Jacobite Cruises
Glenurquhart Road.
***Tel** 01463 233999.* ○ *daily.*
♿ **www**.jacobite.co.uk

Culloden ⑬

(NTS) Inverness. 🚆 🚌 *Inverness.*
www.nts.org.uk/culloden

A desolate stretch of moorland, Culloden looks much as it did on 16 April 1746, the date of the last battle to be fought on British soil *(see p483).* Here the Jacobite cause, with Bonnie Prince Charlie's *(see p535)* leadership, finally perished under the onslaught of Hanoverian troops led by the Duke of Cumberland. All is explained in the **NTS Visitor Centre**.

Environs: Signposted for a mile (1.5 km) or so east are the outstanding Neolithic burial sites, the **Clava Cairns**.

ℹ NTS Visitor Centre
On the B9006 east of Inverness.
Tel *01463 790607.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 9am–6pm daily; Nov–Dec & Feb–Mar: 10am–4pm daily.* ● *24–26 Dec, Jan.* 🎫 ♿

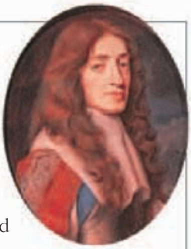
Fort George ⑭

Inverness. ***Tel*** *01667 460232.*
🚆 🚌 *Inverness, Nairn.* ○ *Apr–Sep: 9:30am–5:30pm daily (to 4:30pm Oct–Mar).* ● *25 & 26 Dec.* 🎫 ♿
👉 **www**.historic-scotland.gov.uk

One of the finest works of European military architecture, Fort George stands on a windswept promontory jutting into the Moray Firth, ideally located to suppress the Highlanders. Completed in 1769, the fort was built after the Jacobite risings to discourage further rebellion in the Highlands and has remained a military garrison ever since. The Fort houses the **Regimental Museum** of the Highlanders Regiment, and some of its barrack rooms reconstruct the conditions of the common soldiers stationed here more than 200 years ago. The **Grand Magazine** contains an outstanding collection of arms and military equipment. The battlements also make an excellent place from which to watch dolphins in the Moray Firth.

THE JACOBITE MOVEMENT

The first Jacobites (mainly Catholic Highlanders) were the supporters of James II of England (James VII of Scotland) who was deposed by the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 *(see p53).* With the Protestant William of Orange on the throne, the Jacobites' desire to restore the Stuart monarchy led to the uprisings of 1715 and 1745. The first, in support of James VIII, the "Old Pretender", ended at the Battle of Sheriffmuir (1715). The failure of the second uprising, with the defeat at Culloden, saw the end of Jacobite hopes and led to the end of the clan system and the suppression of Highland culture for over a century *(see p485).*


James II, by Samuel Cooper (1609–72)

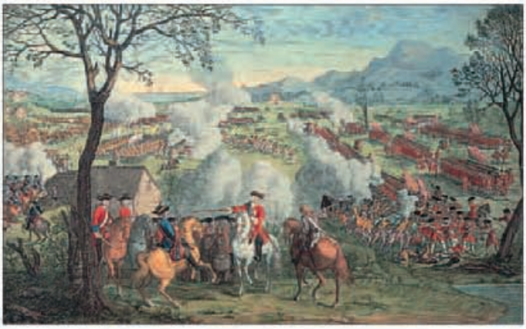
The drawbridge on the eastern side of Cawdor Castle

Cawdor Castle ⑮

On B9090 (off A96). ***Tel*** *01667 404401.* 🚆 *Nairn, then bus.*
🚌 *from Inverness.* ○ *May–Sep: 10am–5:30pm daily.* 🎫 ♿ *gardens & ground floor only.* 🍴
www.cawdorcastle.com

With its turreted central tower, moat and drawbridge, Cawdor Castle is one of the most romantic stately homes in the Highlands. Though the castle is famed for being the 11th-century home of Shakespeare's *(see p322)* Macbeth and the scene of his murder of King Duncan, it is not historically proven that either came here.

An ancient holly tree preserved in the vaults is said to be the one under which, in 1372, Thane William's donkey, laden with gold, stopped for a rest during its master's search for a place to build a fortress. According to legend, this was how the site for the castle was chosen. Now, after 600 years of continuous occupation (it is still the home of the Thanes of Cawdor) the house is a treasury of family history, containing a number of rare tapestries and portraits by the 18th-century painters Joshua Reynolds (1723–92) and George Romney (1734–1802). Furniture in the Pink Bedroom and Woodcock Room includes work by Chippendale and Sheraton. In the Old Kitchen, the huge Victorian cooking range stands as a shrine to below-stairs drudgery. The grounds provide nature trails and a nine-hole golf course.


A contemporary picture, *The Battle of Culloden* (1746), by D Campbell

Elgin ⑯

Moray. 👥 *21,000.* 🚆 🚌
ℹ *17 High St, Moray (01343 542666).*

With its cobbled marketplace and crooked lanes, the popular holiday centre of Elgin still retains much of its medieval layout. The 13th-century **cathedral** ruins next to King Street are all that remain of one of Scotland's architectural triumphs, the design of its tiered windows reminiscent of the cathedral at St Andrews *(see p499)*. Once known as the Lantern of the North, the cathedral was severely damaged in 1390 by the Wolf of Badenoch (the son of Robert II) in revenge for his excommunication by the Bishop of Moray. Worse damage came in 1576 when the Regent Moray ordered the stripping of its lead roofing. Among its remains is a Pictish cross-slab in the nave, and a basin in a corner where one of Elgin's benefactors, Andrew Anderson, was kept as a baby by his homeless mother. Next to the cathedral are the **Biblical Gardens** with all 110 plants mentioned in the Bible, while the **Elgin Museum** has anthropological displays and the **Moray Motor Museum** has over 40 vehicles.

Details of the central tower of Elgin Cathedral

🏛 **Elgin Museum**
1 High St. ***Tel*** *01343 543675.*
○ *Apr–Oct: 10am–5pm Mon–Fri; 11am–4pm Sat.* ♿ *limited.*

🏛 **Moray Motor Museum**
Bridge St, Bishopmill. ***Tel*** *01343 541120.* ○ *Easter–Oct: 11am–5pm daily.* ♿

Aberdeen ⑰

Scotland's third largest city and Europe's offshore oil capital, Aberdeen has prospered since the discovery of petroleum in the North Sea in 1970. The sea bed has now yielded over 100 oilfields. Widely known as the Granite City, its rugged outlines are softened by sumptuous year-round floral displays in its public parks and gardens, the Duthie Park Winter Gardens being one of the largest indoor gardens in Europe. The picturesque village of Footdee, which sits at the end of the city's 2-mile (3-km) beach, has good views back to the busy harbour.

The spires of Aberdeen, rising behind the city harbour

Exploring Aberdeen

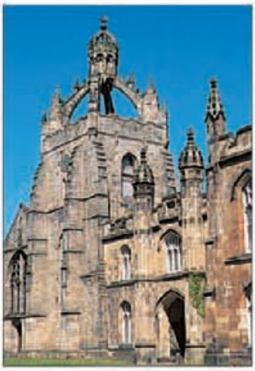
The city centre flanks the mile-long (1.5 km) Union Street ending to the east at the Mercat Cross. The cross stands in Castlegate, the one-time site of the city castle. From here the cobbled Shiprow winds southwest and passes Provost Ross's House *(see p540)* on its way to the harbour with its fish market. A bus can be taken a mile (1.5 km) north of the centre to Old Aberdeen which, with its medieval streets and wynds, has the peaceful character of a separate village. Driving is restricted in some streets.

King's College

College Bounds, Old Aberdeen. ***Tel*** *01224 272137.* **Chapel** ○ *Opening times vary – phone to check.* ♿
King's College was founded in 1495 as the city's first university. The inter-denominational chapel (the only part of the college open to the public), in the past consecutively Catholic and Protestant, has a lantern tower rebuilt after a storm in 1633. Stained-glass windows by Douglas Strachan add a contemporary touch to the interior which contains a 1540 pulpit, later carved with heads of Stuart monarchs.

St Andrew's Cathedral

King St. ***Tel*** *01224 640119.*
○ *May–Sep: 11am–4pm Tue–Fri.*
♿ *by appointment.*
The Mother Church of the Episcopal Communion in America, St Andrew's has a memorial to Samuel Seabury, the first Episcopalian bishop in the United States, who was consecrated in Aberdeen in 1784. Coats of arms adorn the ceiling above the north and south aisles, contrasting colourfully with the white walls and pillars. They represent the American States and local Jacobite *(see p537)* families.


The elegant lantern tower of the chapel at King's College

PROVOST SKENE'S HOUSE

Guestrow. ***Tel*** *01224 641086.* ○ *10am–5pm Mon–Sat (limited access to upper floors).* ● *25 & 26, 31 Dec–2 Jan.* **www**.aagm.co.uk

Once the home of Sir George Skene, a 17th-century provost (mayor) of Aberdeen, the house was built in 1545. Inside, period rooms span 200 years of design. The Duke of Cumberland stayed here before the Battle of Culloden *(see p537).*

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

City of Aberdeen. 👥 *203,500.*
✈ 🚆 🚌 *Guild St.*
ℹ *23 Union St (01224 288828).*
www.aberdeen-grampian.com

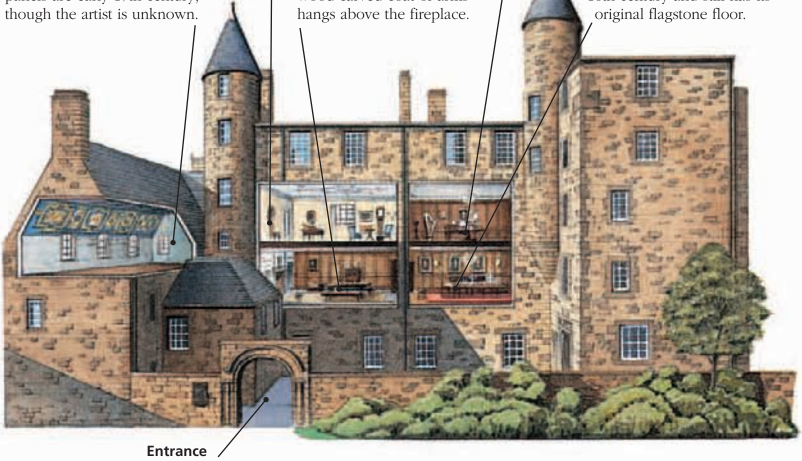
The 18th-century Parlour, with its walnut harpsichord and covered chairs by the fire, was the informal room in which the family would have tea.

The Regency Room typifies early 19th-century elegance. A harp dating from 1820 stands by a Grecian-style sofa and a French writing table.

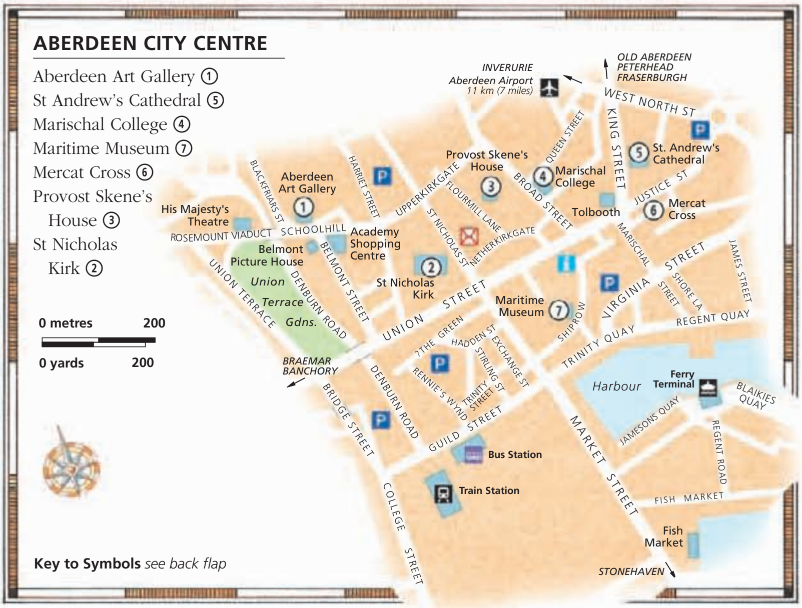
The Painted Gallery has one of Scotland's most important cycles of religious art. The panels are early 17th century, though the artist is unknown.

The 17th-century Great Hall contains heavy oak dining furniture. Provost Skene's wood-carved coat of arms hangs above the fireplace.

The Georgian Dining Room, with its Classical design, was the main formal room in the 16th century and still has its original flagstone floor.



Entrance



ABERDEEN CITY CENTRE

Aberdeen Art Gallery ①
St Andrew's Cathedral ⑤
Marischal College ④
Maritime Museum ⑦
Mercat Cross ⑥
Provost Skene's House ③
St Nicholas Kirk ②

0 metres 200
0 yards 200
INVERURIE
Aberdeen Airport
11 km (7 miles)
OLD ABERDEEN
PETERHEAD
FRASERBURGH
WEST NORTH ST
KING STREET
QUEEN STREET
St. Andrew's Cathedral
Provost Skene's House
Marischal College
BROAD STREET
JUSTICE ST
Mercat Cross
Tolbooth
UPPERKIRKGATE
FLOURMILL LANE
HARRIET STREET
Aberdeen Art Gallery
BLACKFRIARS ST
His Majesty's Theatre
ROSEMOUNT VIADUCT
SCHOOLHILL
Academy Shopping Centre
ST NICHOLAS ST
NETHERKIRKGATE
MARISCHAL
Belmont Picture House
BELMONT STREET
St Nicholas Kirk
Union Terrace Gdns.
UNION TERRACE
DENBURN ROAD
UNION STREET
Maritime Museum
SHIPROW
VIRGINIA STREET
SHORE LA
JAMES STREET
REGENT QUAY
THE GREEN
HADDEN ST
STIRLING ST
EXCHANGE ST
TRINITY QUAY
BRAEMAR
BANCHORY
BRIDGE STREET
RENNIE'S WYND
TRINITY STREET
GUILD STREET
Harbour
Ferry Terminal
BLAIKIES QUAY
JAMESONS QUAY
MARKET STREET
Bus Station
Train Station
REGENT ROAD
FISH MARKET
Fish Market
COLLEGE STREET
STONEHAVEN

Key to Symbols *see back flap*

Art Gallery

Schoolhill. ***Tel*** *01224 523700.* ○ *10am–5pm Tue–Sat, 2–5pm Sun.* ● *25 Dec–2 Jan.* ♿ **www**.aagm.co.uk

Housed in a Neo-Classical building, purpose-built in 1884, the Art Gallery has a wide range of exhibitions, with an emphasis on contemporary work. A fine collection of Aberdonian silver can be found among the decorative arts on the ground floor, and is the subject of a video presentation. A permanent collection of 18th–20th-century fine art features such names as Toulouse-Lautrec, Reynolds and Zoffany. Several of the works were bequeathed in 1900 by a local granite merchant, Alex Macdonald. He commissioned many of the paintings in the Macdonald Room, which displays 92 self-portraits by British artists. Occasional poetry-readings, music recitals and films are on offer.

Aberdonian silver in the Art Gallery

St Nicholas Kirk

Union St. ***Tel*** *01224 643494.* ○ *10am–1pm Mon–Fri.* ♿ **www**.kirk-of-st-nicholas.org.uk

Founded in the 12th century, St Nicholas is Scotland's largest parish church. Though the present structure dates from 1752, many relics of earlier times can be seen inside. After being damaged during the Reformation, the interior was divided into two. A chapel in the East Church contains iron rings used to secure witches in the 17th century, while in the West Church there are some embroidered panels attributed to one Mary Jameson (1597–1644).

Maritime Museum

Shiprow. ***Tel*** *01224 337700.* ○ *10am–5pm Tue–Sat, noon–3pm Sun.* ♿ ☕ 🛍 **www**.aagm.co.uk

Overlooking the harbour is Provost Ross's House, which dates back to 1593 and is one of the oldest residential buildings in the town. This museum traces the history of Aberdeen's seafaring tradition. Exhibitions include ship-wrecks, rescues, shipbuilding and the oil installations off Scotland's east coast.

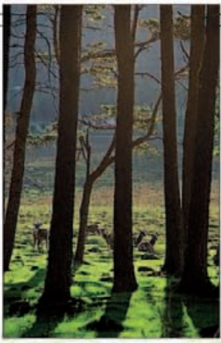
St Machar's Cathedral

The Chanonry. ***Tel*** *01224 485988.* ○ *9am–5pm daily (10am–4pm winter).* ♿

Dominating Old Aberdeen, the 15th-century edifice of St Machar's is the oldest granite building in the city. The stonework of one arch even dates as far back as the 14th century. The impressive nave now serves as a parish church and its magnificent oak ceiling is adorned with the coats of arms of 48 popes, emperors and princes of Christendom.

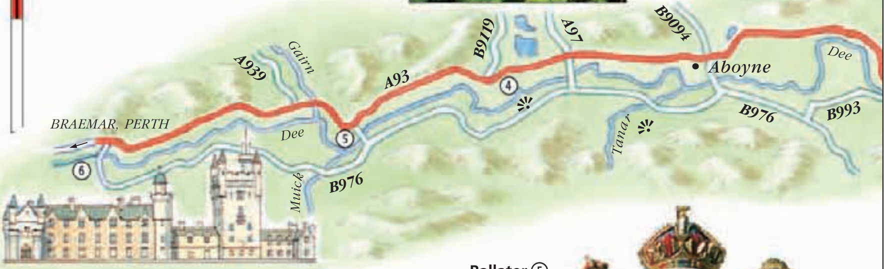
Royal Deeside Tour ⑱

Since Queen Victoria's purchase of the Balmoral estate in 1852, Deeside has been best known as the summer home of the British Royal Family, though it has been associated with royalty since the time of Robert the Bruce *(see p482).* The route follows the Dee, formerly a prolific salmon river, through some magnificent Grampian scenery.



Muir of Dinnet Nature Reserve ④

An information centre on the A97 provides an excellent place from which to explore this beautiful mixed woodland area, formed by the retreating glaciers of the last Ice Age.



Balmoral ⑥

Bought by Queen Victoria for 30,000 guineas in 1852, after its owner choked to death on a fishbone, the castle was rebuilt in the Scottish Baronial style at Prince Albert's request.

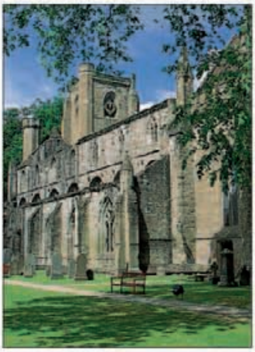
Ballater ⑤

The old railway town of Ballater has royal warrants on many of its shop fronts. It grew as a 19th-century spa town, its waters reputedly providing a cure for tuberculosis.

Dunkeld ⑲

Perth & Kinross. 👥 *2,500.* 🚆 *Birnam.* 🚌 ℹ *The Cross (01350 727688).* **www**.visitdunkeld.com

Situated by the River Tay, this ancient and charming village was all but destroyed in the Battle of Dunkeld, a Jacobite *(see p537)* defeat, in 1689. The **Little Houses** lining Cathedral Street were the first to be rebuilt, and are fine examples of imaginative restoration. The ruins of the 14th-century **cathedral** enjoy an idyllic setting on shady lawns beside the Tay, against a backdrop of steep and wooded hills. The choir is used as the parish church and its north wall contains a Leper's Squint: a hole through which lepers could see the altar during mass. It was while on holiday in the Dunkeld country-side that Beatrix Potter *(see p367)* found the location for her Peter Rabbit stories.



The ruins of Dunkeld Cathedral

Pitlochry ⑳

Perth & Kinross. 👥 *2,900.* 🚆 🚌 ℹ *22 Atholl Rd (01796 472215).* **www**.perthshire.co.uk

Surrounded by pine-forested hills, Pitlochry became famous after Queen Victoria *(see p56)* described it as one of the finest resorts in Europe. In early summer, salmon swim up the ladder built into the Power Station Dam, on their way to spawning grounds upriver. There is a viewing chamber here to see them. The **Power Station Visitor Centre** outlines the hydro-electric scheme that harnesses the waters of the River Tummel. The home of Bell's whisky, the **Blair Athol Distillery**, gives an insight into whisky making *(see p489)* and is open for tours. Scotland's famous **Festival Theatre** puts on a summer season when the programme changes daily.

ℹ **Power Station Visitor** Centre Pitlochry. ***Tel*** *01796 473152.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 10am–5:30pm Mon–Fri (Jul & Aug: daily).* ✋ ✋

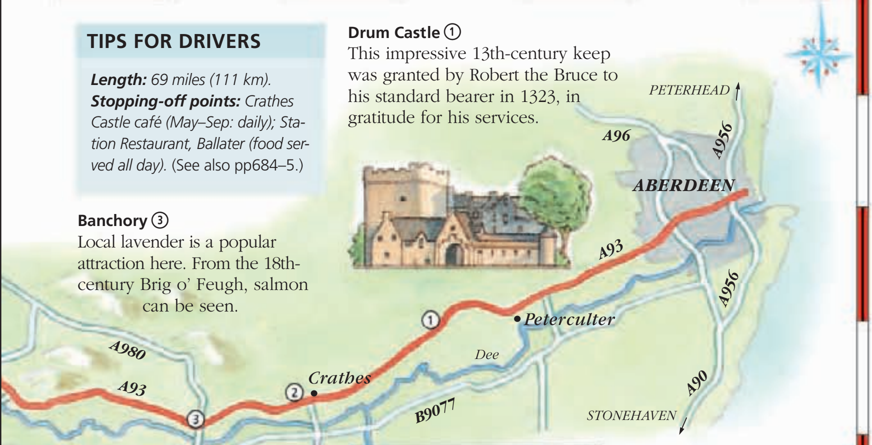
Festival Theatre
Port-na-Craig. ***Tel*** *01796 484626.* ○ *daily.* ✋ ♿ ✋

Blair Athol Distillery
Perth Rd. ***Tel*** *01796 482003.* ○ *Easter–Sep: Mon–Sat (& Sun pm Jun–Sep); Oct–Mar: Mon–Fri.* ● *22 Dec–4 Jan.* ✋ ♿ *limited.* ✋ 🛍
www.discovering-distilleries.com

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

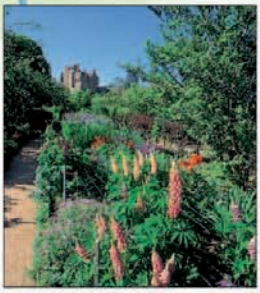
Length: *69 miles (111 km).*
Stopping-off points: *Crathes Castle café (May–Sep: daily); Station Restaurant, Ballater (food served all day).* (See also pp684–5.)

Drum Castle ①
This impressive 13th-century keep was granted by Robert the Bruce to his standard bearer in 1323, in gratitude for his services.



Banchory ③
Local lavender is a popular attraction here. From the 18th-century Brig o' Feugh, salmon can be seen.

Crathes Castle and Gardens ②
This is the family home of the Burnetts, who were made Royal Foresters of Drum by Robert the Bruce. Along with the title, he gave Alexander Burnett the ivory Horn of Leys which is still on display.



0 kilometres 5

0 miles 4

KEY

▬ Tour route
▬ Other roads
✳ Viewpoint

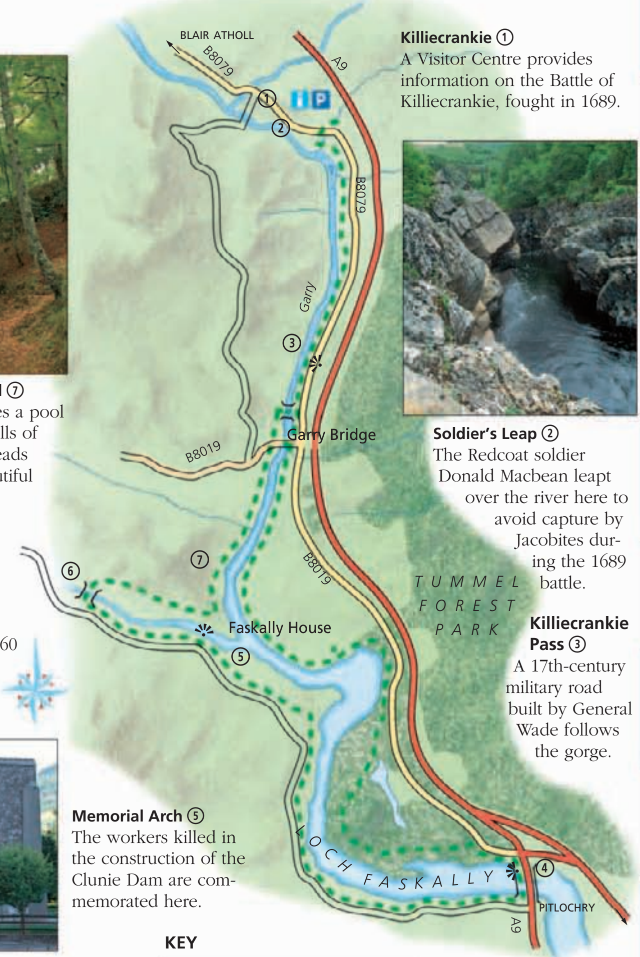
Killiecrankie Walk ㉑

In an area famous for its scenery and historical connections, this circular walk offers typical Highland views. The route is fairly flat, though ringed by mountains, and follows the River Garry south to Loch Faskally, meandering through a wooded gorge, passing the Soldier's Leap and a Victorian viaduct. There are several ideal picnic spots along the way. Returning along the River Tummel, the walk crosses one of Queen Victoria's favourite Highland areas, before doubling back along the rivers to complete the circuit.

Killiecrankie ①
A Visitor Centre provides information on the Battle of Killiecrankie, fought in 1689.

Linn of Tummel ⑦
The path passes a pool beneath the Falls of Tummel and leads through a beautiful forest trail.

Coronation Bridge ⑥
Spanning the River Tummel, this footbridge was built in 1860 in honour of George IV.



Soldier's Leap ②
The Redcoat soldier Donald Macbean leapt over the river here to avoid capture by Jacobites during the 1689 battle.

Killiecrankie Pass ③
A 17th-century military road built by General Wade follows the gorge.

Memorial Arch ⑤
The workers killed in the construction of the Clunie Dam are commemorated here.

Clunie Foot Bridge ④
This bridge crosses the artificial Loch Faskally, created by the damming of the River Tummel for hydro-electric power in the 1950s.

KEY

- Route
- Major road
- B road
- Minor road
- Viewpoint
- P Parking
- Visitor Centre

TIPS FOR WALKERS

Starting point: *NTS Visitor Centre Killiecrankie.* ***Tel*** *01796 473233.*
Getting there: *Bus from Pitlochry or Aberfeldy.*
Length: *10 miles (16 km).*
Difficulty: *Very easy.*

The Three Sisters, Glencoe, in late autumn

Blair Castle ㉒

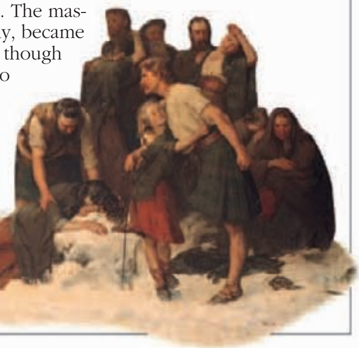
Blair Atholl, Perthshire. ***Tel*** *01796 481207.* 🚆 *Blair Atholl.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 9:30am–5:30pm daily: Nov–Mar: 9:30am–2:30pm Tue & Sat.* ● *two weeks end Dec.* 🎫 ♿ *limited.* **www**.blair-castle.co.uk

This rambling, turreted castle has been altered so often in its 700-year history that it provides a unique insight into the history of Highland aristocratic life. The 18th-century wing has a display containing the gloves and pipe of Bonnie Prince Charlie *(see p535)*, who spent two days here gathering Jacobite *(see p537)* support. Family portraits cover 300 years and include paintings by such masters as Johann Zoffany and Sir Peter Lely. Sir Edwin Landseer's *Death of a Stag in Glen Tilt* (1850) was painted nearby.

In 1844 Queen Victoria visited the castle and conferred on its owners, the Dukes of Atholl, the distinction of being allowed to maintain a private army. The Atholl Highlanders still flourish.

THE MASSACRE OF GLENCOE

In 1692, the chief of the Glencoe MacDonalds was five days late in registering an oath of submission to William III, giving the government an excuse to root out a nest of Jacobite *(p537)* supporters. For ten days 130 soldiers, captained by Robert Campbell, were hospitably entertained by the unsuspecting MacDonalds. At dawn on 13 February, in a terrible breach of trust, the soldiers fell on their hosts, killing some 38 MacDonalds. Many more died in their wintry mountain hideouts. The massacre, unsurprisingly, became a political scandal, though there were to be no official reprimands for three years.



Detail of *The Massacre of Glencoe* by James Hamilton

The Cairngorms ㉓

See pp544–5.

Glencoe ㉔

Highland. 🚆 *Fort William.* 🚌 *Glencoe.* ℹ *Visit Scotland (01855 811866).* **www**.glencoe-scotland.net

Renowned for its awesome scenery and savage history, Glencoe was compared by Dickens to "a burial ground of a race of giants". The precipitous cliffs of Buachaille Etive Mor and the knife-edged ridge of Aonach Eagach (both over 900 m; 3,000 ft) present a formidable challenge even to experienced mountaineers.

Against a dark backdrop of craggy peaks and the tumbling River Coe, the Glen offers superb hill-walking in the summer. Stout footwear, waterproofs and attention to safety warnings are essential. Details of routes, ranging from the easy half-hour between the **NTS Visitor Centre** and Signal Rock (from which the signal was given to commence the massacre) to a stiff 6 mile (10 km) haul up the Devil's Staircase can be had from the Visitor Centre. Guided walks are offered in summer by the NTS Ranger service.

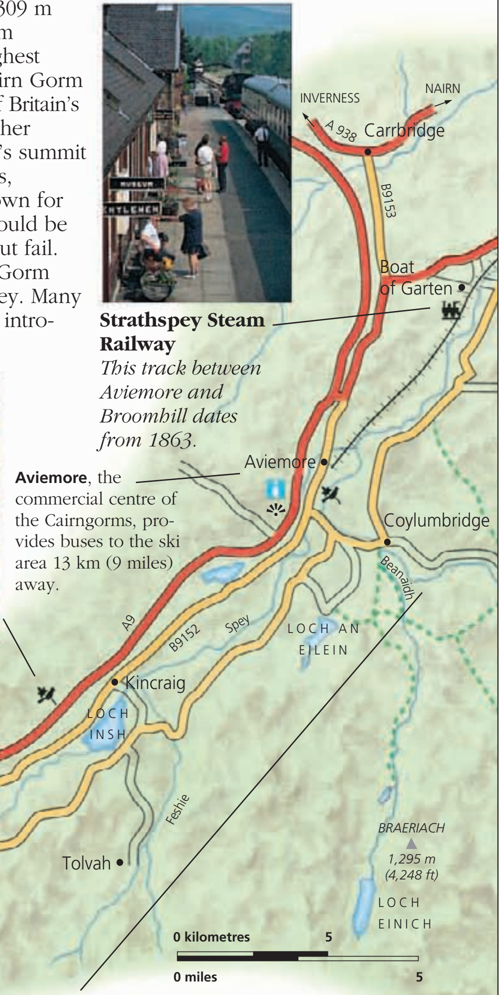
ℹ **NTS Visitor Centre**
Glencoe. ***Tel*** *01855 811307.* ○ *daily.* 🎫 ♿ *ltd.* **www**.nts.org.uk

The Cairngorms ㉒

Rising to a height of 1,309 m (4,296 ft), the Cairngorm mountains form the highest landmass in Britain. Cairn Gorm itself is the site of one of Britain's first ski centres. A weather station at the mountain's summit provides regular reports, essential in an area known for sudden changes of weather. Walkers should be sure to follow the mountain code without fail. The funicular railway that climbs Cairn Gorm affords superb views over the Spey Valley. Many estates in the valley have centres which introduce the visitor to Highland land use.

Wild Goat

Strathspey Steam Railway
This track between Aviemore and Broomhill dates from 1863.



INVERNESS
NAIRN
A 938
Carrbridge
B9153
Boat of Garten
Aviemore
Coylumbridge
Beanaidh
LOCH AN EILEIN
A9
B9152
Spey
Kincraig
LOCH INSH
Kingussie
NEWTONMORE
PERTH
B970
Tolvah
Feshie
BRAERIACH
1,295 m (4,248 ft)
LOCH EINICH
0 kilometres 5
0 miles 5

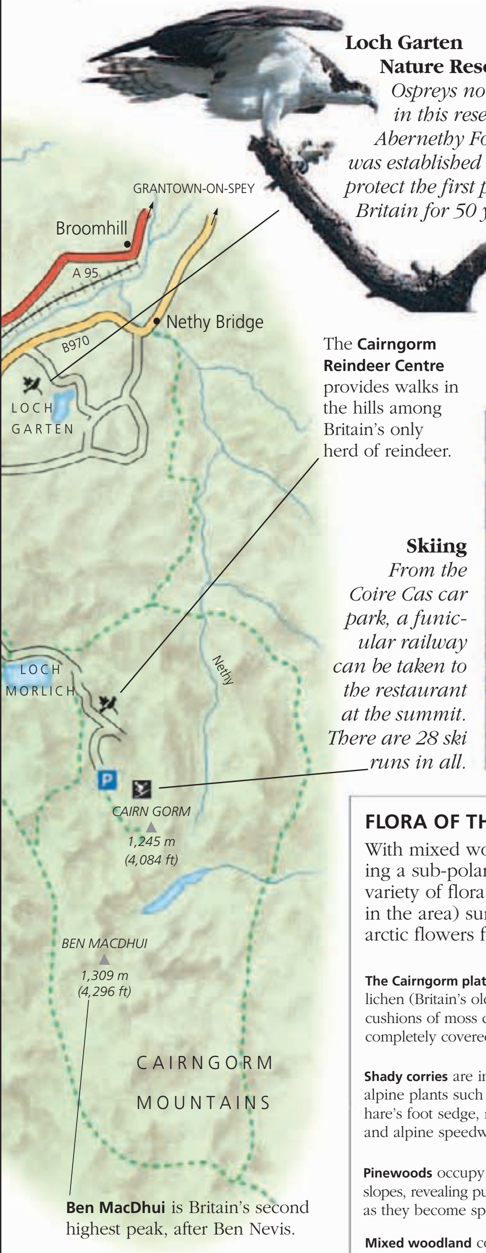
Aviemore, the commercial centre of the Cairngorms, provides buses to the ski area 13 km (9 miles) away.

Kincraig Highland Wildlife Park
Driving through this park, the visitor can see bison alongside wolves and wild boar. All of these animals were once common in the Highlands.

The Cairngorms by Aviemore

Rothiemurchus Estate
Highland cattle can be seen among many other creatures at Rothiemurchus. A visitor centre provides guided walks and illustrates life on a Highland estate.

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp596–599 and pp649–651


GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY
Broomhill
A 95
Nethy Bridge
B970
LOCH GARTEN
LOCH MORLICH
Nethy
P
CAIRN GORM
1,245 m
(4,084 ft)
BEN MACDHUI
1,309 m
(4,296 ft)
CAIRNGORM MOUNTAINS

Loch Garten Nature Reserve
Ospreys now thrive in this reserve in Abernethy Forest, which was established in 1959 to protect the first pair seen in Britain for 50 years.

The **Cairngorm Reindeer Centre** provides walks in the hills among Britain's only herd of reindeer.

Skiing
From the Coire Cas car park, a funicular railway can be taken to the restaurant at the summit. There are 28 ski runs in all.

Ben MacDhui is Britain's second highest peak, after Ben Nevis.

KEY

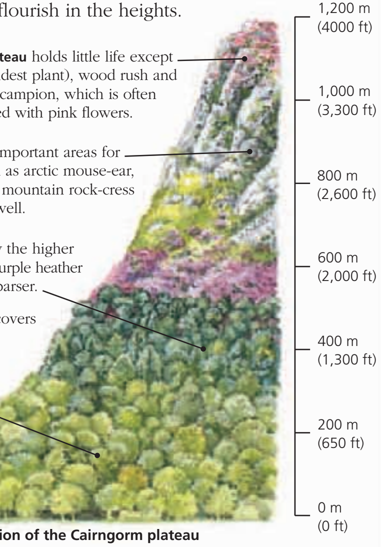
ℹ	Tourist information
🟥	Major road
🟨	Minor road
═	Narrow lane
┅	Footpath
✺	Viewpoint

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

The Highlands. 🚉 🚌 *Aviemore.* ℹ *King St, Kingussie (01540 661297).* **Cairngorm Reindeer Centre**, *Loch Morlich.* ***Tel*** *01479 861228.* ○ *daily.* ♿ **Kincraig Highland Wildlife Park**. ***Tel*** *01540 651270.* ○ *daily (weather permitting).* **www**.highlandwildlifepark.org **Rothiemurchus Visitor Centre**, *near Aviemore.* ***Tel*** *01479 812345.* ○ *daily.* **Loch Garten Nature Reserve**. ***Tel*** *01479 831476.* ○ *daily.* **Skiing** ***Tel*** *01479 861261.*

FLORA OF THE CAIRNGORMS

With mixed woodland at their base and the summits forming a sub-polar plateau, the Cairngorms present a huge variety of flora. Ancient Caledonian pines (once common in the area) survive in Abernethy Forest, while arctic flowers flourish in the heights.


1,200 m
(4000 ft)
1,000 m
(3,300 ft)
800 m
(2,600 ft)
600 m
(2,000 ft)
400 m
(1,300 ft)
200 m
(650 ft)
0 m
(0 ft)

The Cairngorm plateau holds little life except lichen (Britain's oldest plant), wood rush and cushions of moss campion, which is often completely covered with pink flowers.

Shady corries are important areas for alpine plants such as arctic mouse-ear, hare's foot sedge, mountain rock-cress and alpine speedwell.

Pinewoods occupy the higher slopes, revealing purple heather as they become sparser.

Mixed woodland covers the lower ground which is carpeted with heather and deergrass.

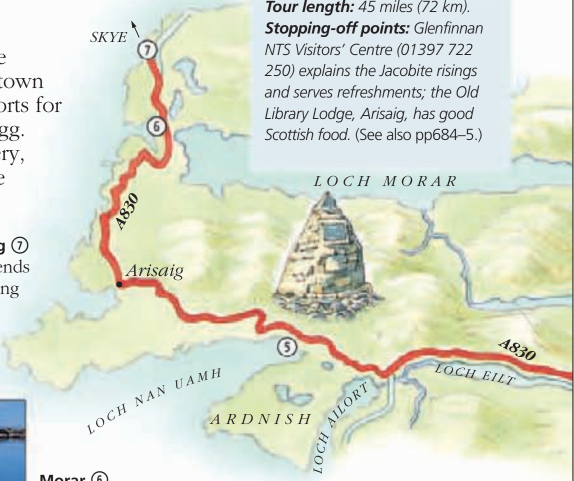
An idealized section of the Cairngorm plateau

Road to the Isles Tour ㉕

This scenic route goes past vast mountain-corridors, breathtaking beaches of white sand and tiny villages, to the town of Mallaig, one of the ferry ports for the isles of Skye, Rum and Eigg. As well as the stunning scenery, the area is steeped in Jacobite history *(see p537)*.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Tour length: *45 miles (72 km).*
Stopping-off points: *Glenfinnan NTS Visitors' Centre (01397 722 250) explains the Jacobite risings and serves refreshments; the Old Library Lodge, Arisaig, has good Scottish food.* (See also pp684–5.)



Mallaig ⑦
The Road to the Isles ends at Mallaig, an active little fishing port with a very good harbour and one of the ferry links to Skye *(see pp534–5)*.

Morar ⑥
The road continues through Morar, an area renowned for its white sands, and Loch Morar, rumoured to be the home of a 12-m (40-ft) monster known as Morag.

Prince's Cairn ⑤
Crossing the Ardnish Peninsula to Loch Nan Uamh, a cairn marks the spot from which Bonnie Prince Charlie finally left Scotland for France in 1746.

Oban ㉖

Argyll & Bute. 👥 *8,500.* 🚂 🚌 ⛴ ℹ *Argyll Sq (01631 563122).* **www**.oban.org.uk

Located on the Firth of Lorne and commanding a magnificent view of the Argyll coast, the bustling port of Oban is a popular destination for travellers on their way to Mull and the Western Isles *(see p529)*.

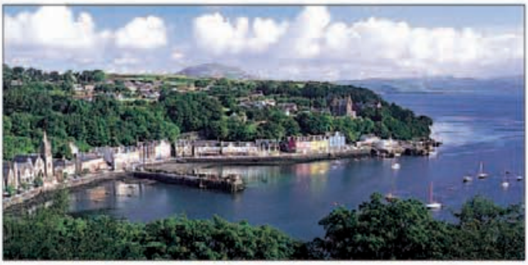
Dominating the skyline is McCaig's Tower, an unfinished Victorian imitation of the Colosseum in Rome. It is worth making the 10-minute climb from the town centre for the sea views alone. Attractions in the town include working centres for glass, pottery and whisky; the Oban distillery produces one of the country's finest malt whiskies *(see p489)*. The **Scottish Sealife Sanctuary** rescues injured and orphaned seals and has displays of underwater life. A busy harbour shelters car ferries going to Barra and South Uist, Mull, Tiree and Colonsay islands.

🏛 Scottish Sealife Sanctuary
Barcaldine. ***Tel*** *01631 720386.*
○ *daily.* ● *1 Jan, 25 Dec.* 🎟 ♿
🍴 🛍 **www**.sealsanctuary.co.uk

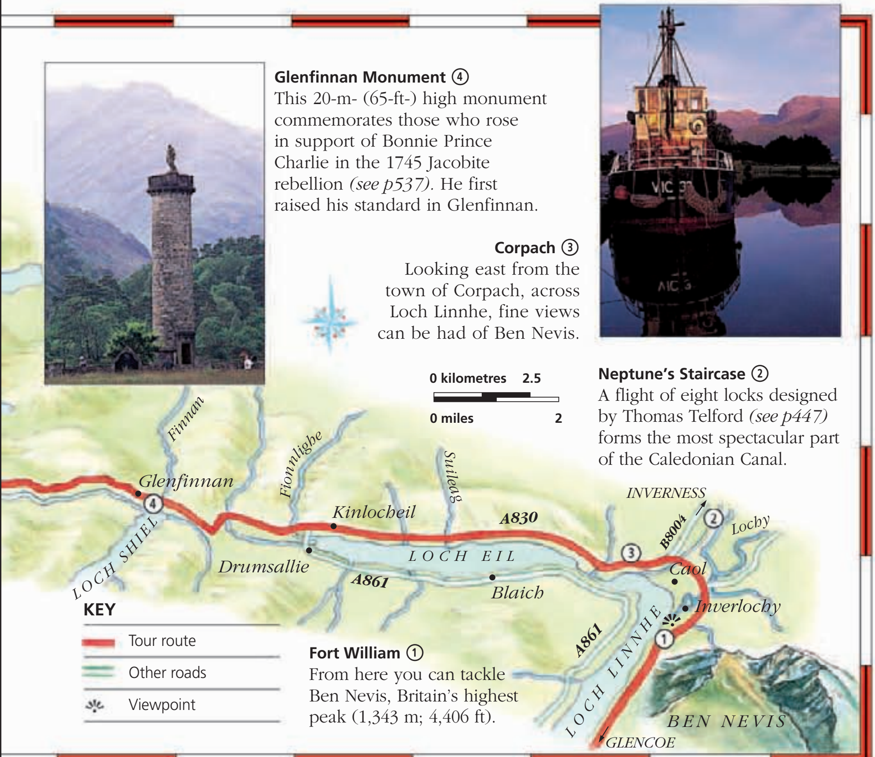
Mull ㉗

Argyll & Bute. 👥 *2,800.* ⛴ *from Oban, Kilchoan, Lochaline.* ℹ *Main Street, Tobermory (01688 302182).*

Most roads on this easily accessible Hebridean island follow the sharply indented rocky coastline, affording wonderful sea views. From Craignure, the Mull and West Highland Railway serves the baronial **Torosay Castle**. A pathway through its gardens is lined with statues, while inside, 19th-century furniture and paintings can be found. On a promontory to the east lies **Duart Castle**, home of the chief of Clan Maclean. Visitors can see the Banqueting Hall and State Rooms in the 13th-century keep. Its dungeons once held prisoners from a Spanish Armada galleon sunk by a Donald Maclean in 1588.



Looking out to sea across Tobermory Bay, Mull



Glenfinnan Monument ④
This 20-m- (65-ft-) high monument commemorates those who rose in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie in the 1745 Jacobite rebellion *(see p537)*. He first raised his standard in Glenfinnan.

Corpach ③
Looking east from the town of Corpach, across Loch Linnhe, fine views can be had of Ben Nevis.

Neptune's Staircase ②
A flight of eight locks designed by Thomas Telford *(see p447)* forms the most spectacular part of the Caledonian Canal.

Fort William ①
From here you can tackle Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak (1,343 m; 4,406 ft).

KEY

- Tour route
- Other roads
- Viewpoint

Environs: From Fionnphort, a ferry goes to **Iona**, where St Columba *(see p525)* began his mission in Scotland in 563. North of Iona, the Isle of Staffa should be visited for its magnificent **Fingal's Cave**.

Torosay Castle
Off A849, Nr Craignure. ***Tel*** *01680 812421.* **Castle** ○ *Easter–Oct: 10:30am–5pm daily.* **Gardens** ○ *10am–5pm daily (dawn–dusk in winter).* ♿ ☕ *for groups.*

Duart Castle
Off A849, nr Craignure.
Tel *01680 812309.* ○ *Apr–Oct: 10:30am–5:30pm daily.*

The ruins of Kilchurn Castle on the shore of Loch Awe

Loch Awe ㉘

Argyll & Bute. 🚆 🚌 *Dalmally.*
ℹ *Inveraray (01499 302063).*
www.loch-awe.com

One of the longest of Scotland's freshwater lochs, Loch Awe fills a 25-mile (40-km) glen in the southwestern Highlands. A short drive east of the village of Lochawe leads to the lochside remains of **Kilchurn Castle**, abandoned after being struck by lightning in the 18th century. Dwarfing the castle is the huge bulk of Ben Cruachan, whose summit can be reached by the narrow Pass of Brander, in which Robert the Bruce *(see p482)* fought the Clan MacDougal in 1308. From the A85, a tunnel leads to the cavernous Cruachan Power Station.

Near the village of Taynuilt the preserved Lorn Furnace at Bonawe is a reminder of the iron-smelting industry that caused the destruction of much of the area's woodland in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Marked prehistoric cairns are found off the A816 between Kilmartin and Dunadd. The latter boasts a 6th-century hill fort from which the Stone of Destiny *(see p482)* originated.

Inveraray Castle ㉙

Inveraray, Argyll & Bute. 🚆 *Arrochar, then bus.* ***Tel*** *01499 302203.* ◯ *Apr–Oct: 10am–5:45pm daily.* 📷 ♿ *limited.* 🚩 ☕ 🛍 **www**.inveraray-castle.com

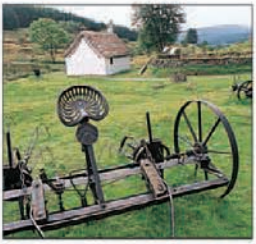
This multi-turreted mock Gothic palace is the family home of the powerful Clan Campbell who have been the Dukes of Argyll since 1701. The castle was built in 1745 by architects Roger Morris and William Adam on the ruins of a 15th-century castle, and the conical towers added later, after a fire in 1877. Magnificent interiors, designed by Robert Mylne in the 1770s, form a backdrop to a huge collection of Oriental and European porcelain and Regency furniture and portraits by Ramsay, Gainsborough and Raeburn. The Armoury Hall features a display of weaponry collected by the Campbells to fight the Jacobites *(see p537).*

The pinnacled, Gothic exterior of Inveraray Castle

Auchindrain Museum ㉚

Inveraray, Argyll & Bute. ***Tel*** *01499 500235.* 🚌 *Inveraray, then bus.* ◯ *May–Oct: 10am–5pm daily (last adm: 4pm).* 🛍 📷 ♿ *limited.* **www**.auchindrain-museum.org.uk

The first open-air museum in Scotland, Auchindrain illuminates the working lives of the kind of farming community that was typical of the Highlands until the late 19th century. Originally a township of some 20 thatched buildings, the site was communally farmed by its tenants until the last one retired in 1962. Visitors can wander through the buildings, many of which combine living space, kitchen and cattle shed under one roof. Some are furnished with box beds and old rush lamps. The homes of Auchindrain are a fascinating memorial to the time before the transition from of subsistence to commercial farming.



An old hay turner at the Auchindrain Museum

Crarae Gardens ㉛

Crarae, Argyll & Bute. ***Tel*** *01546 886614 or NTS (01852 200366).* 🚌 *Inveraray, then bus.* ◯ *9:30am–sunset daily.* **Visitor Centre** ◯ *Apr–Sep 10am–5pm daily (Oct: Wed–Sun).* 📷 ♿ *limited.*

Considered the most beguiling of the gardens of the West Highlands, the **Crarae Gardens** were created in the 1920s by Lady Grace Campbell. She was the aunt of explorer Reginald Farrer, whose specimens from Tibet were the beginnings of a collection of exotic plants. The gardens are nourished by the warmth of the Gulf Stream and the high rainfall. Although there are many unusual Himalayan rhododendrons flourishing here, the gardens are also home to exotic plants from various countries including Tasmania, New Zealand and the USA. Plant collectors still contribute to the gardens, which are best seen in spring and early summer against the blue waters of Loch Fyne.

Jura ㉜

Argyll & Bute. 👥 *200.* ⛴ *from Kennacraig to Islay, then Islay to Jura.* ℹ *Bowmore (01496 810254).*

Barren, mountainous and overrun by red deer, the isle of Jura has only one road which connects the single village of Craighouse to the Islay ferry. Though walking is restricted during the stalking (deer hunting) season between August and October, the island offers superb hill-walking, especially on the slopes of the three main peaks, known as the Paps of Jura. The tallest of these is Beinn An Oir at 784 m (2571 ft). Beyond the northern tip of the isle are the notorious whirlpools of Corryvreckan. The novelist George Orwell (who came to the island to write his final novel, *1984*) nearly lost his life here in 1946 when he fell into the water. A legend tells

Lagavulin distillery, producer of one Scotland's finest malts, on Islay

Mist crowning the Paps of Jura, seen at sunset across the Sound of Islay

of Prince Breackan who, to win the hand of a princess, tried to keep his boat anchored in the whirlpool for three days, held by ropes made of hemp, wool and maidens' hair. The Prince drowned when a single rope, containing the hair of a girl who had been untrue, finally broke.

Islay ㉝

Argyll & Bute. 👥 *3,500.* ⛴ *from Kennacraig.* ℹ *The Square, Bowmore (0870 7200617).* **www**.visitscotland.com

The most southerly of the Western Isles, Islay (pronounced 'Eyeluh') is the home of respected Highland single malt whiskies Lagavulin and Laphroaig. Most of the island's distilleries produce heavily peated malts with a distinctive tang of the sea. The Georgian village of Bowmore has the island's oldest distillery and a circular church designed to minimize the Devil's possible lurking-places. The **Museum of Islay Life** in Port Charlotte contains fascinating information on social and natural history. Seven miles (11 km) east of Port Ellen stands the Kildalton Cross. A block of local green stone adorned with Old Testament scenes, it is one of the most impressive 8th-century Celtic crosses in Britain. Worth a visit for its archaeological and historical interest is the medieval stronghold of the Lords of the Isles, **Finlaggan**. Islay's beaches support a variety of bird life, some of which can be observed at the RSPB reserve at Gruinart.

🏛 **Museum of Islay Life**
Port Charlotte. ***Tel*** *01496 850358.*
○ *Apr–Oct (times vary – call to check).* 💰 ♿

Kintyre ㉞

Argyll & Bute. 👥 *6,000.* 🚆 *Oban.* 🚌 *Campbeltown.* ℹ *MacKinnon House, The Pier, Campbeltown (01586 552056).* **www**.kintyre.org

A long, narrow peninsula stretching far south of Glasgow, Kintyre has superb views across to the islands of Gigha, Islay and Jura. The 9 mile (14 km) Crinan Canal, opened in 1801, is a delightful inland waterway, its 15 locks bustling with pleasure craft in the summer. The town of Tarbert (meaning "isthmus" in Gaelic) takes its name from the neck on which it stands, which is narrow enough to drag a boat across between Loch Fyne and West Loch Tarbert. This feat was first achieved by the Viking King Magnus Barfud who, in 1198, was granted by treaty as much land as he could sail around. Travelling south past Campbeltown, the B842 ends at the headland known as the Mull of Kintyre, which was made famous when former Beatle Paul McCartney commercialized a traditional pipe tune of the same name. Westward lies the isle of Rathlin, where Robert the Bruce *(see p482)* learned patience in his struggles against the English by watching a spider weaving a web in a cave.

Fishing boats and yachts moored at Tarbert harbour, Kintyre

THE GREYHOUND

TRAVELLERS' NEEDS

WHERE TO STAY 552–599
WHERE TO EAT 600–657
SHOPPING IN BRITAIN 658–659
ENTERTAINMENT IN BRITAIN 660–661
SPECIALIST HOLIDAYS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES 662–665

WHERE TO STAY

Hotel doorman, London

Whatever your budget or accommodation preferences, you should be able to find somewhere to suit you from the large choice given in the hotel listings section that follows *(see pp556–99)*. The listings include over 500 suggestions, ranging from palatial five-star establishments to humble guesthouses. The common factor in this selection is that they are all good of their kind, offering distinctive character or exceptional qualities of hospitality, facilities or value for money. Location is another prime consideration for inclusion. All the hotels and guesthouses listed make convenient touring bases for one or more of the destinations featured in this book, or have attractive or interesting settings enjoyable in their own right. On the next few pages we outline some of the types of accommodation available in Britain, along with various aspects of choosing, booking and paying for somewhere to stay.

COUNTRY-HOUSE HOTELS

The quintessentially British country-house hotel has proliferated in the last few decades. Many indifferent hotels try to claim the title with a cursory decorative makeover, but the genuine article stands head and shoulders above them. Individual examples vary widely, but the best are usually set in buildings of architectural or historic interest filled with antiques or high-quality traditional furnishings. They generally have extensive grounds but are not always in deeply rural locations. Comfort, even luxury, is assured, along with good food and service – frequently with a very high price tag. Many also have extensive spa or health facilities. Some of these hotels are still owned and personally managed by resident proprietors; others belong to groups or chains.

BOUTIQUE AND DESIGNER HOTELS

There is a new breed of sophisticated, contemporary hotel that has been making waves in Britain for some years now. These ultra-cool temples of style revel in innovative architecture, funky decor and hip high-tech gadgetry. Many exude an air of uncluttered minimalism, and some have outstanding restaurants. The best-known examples are perhaps in London (the Metropolitan, *p557,* for instance, or the Sanderson, *p559),* but they can be found elsewhere too, usually in city centres. Trendsetting, upmarket micro-chains like **Malmaison** or **Hotel du Vin** could perhaps be included in this category. Most of these hotels are expensive, but facilities, furnishings, service and privacy justify the cost.

Buckland Manor ***(see p578),*** **Gloucestershire**

Atholl Palace Hotel ***(see p599)***

HOTEL GROUPS

New hotel groups have taken the place of many of the long-established names, providing reliably standardized accommodation at all price levels in most parts of Britain. The majority of chain hotels (operated by the same company under identical corporate branding) lie in accessible, convenient locations. Though lacking in any individuality, they are practical and efficiently run, and usually represent good value for money. They also frequently offer bargain deals and reduced rates depending on the time of year.

Budget chains offering no-frills, motel-lodge-style accommodation include **Ibis**, **Travelodge** and **Premier Inn**; further up the scale are mid-market chains like **Holiday Inn** or **Novotel**.

◁ **The 11th-century ruins of Corfe Castle, Dorset**

The Swan at Lavenham, Suffolk *(see p567)*, a converted coaching inn

Chain-hotel rates generally don't include breakfast, but look out for inclusive leisure-break rates at pricier chains like **Moat House**.

Also found throughout the country are well-known, independently owned franchise hotels, including **Best Western** and **Pride of Britain**. There's also **Wolsey Lodges**, a group of private houses, many beautifully furnished and often sited in buildings of notable architectural or historic interest.

INNS AND PUBS WITH ROOMS

The coaching inn is a familiar concept in Britain. Many of these fine old hostelries date from the 18th century, though some are even older, such as The George of Stamford *(see p582),* and often provide reliable restaurants, traditional decor and a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Other types of pub or inn now offer accommodation and reputable food, and many have become much more welcoming to families. Britain's best inns are very comfortable and stylish and bear comparison with any good hotel. Gastropubs, informal eateries often with exceptional food, sometimes offer stylish accommodation at reasonable prices.

BED-AND-BREAKFASTS AND GUEST HOUSES

The B&B is probably the best-known and certainly the most widely used type of budget accommodation in Britain. These establishments are generally family-owned private homes or farmhouses. Accommodation and facilities can be simple (bedrooms may not have TV, telephones, or en-suite bathrooms, for instance), but the best can be quite sophisticated. Prices include breakfast (generally a traditional British fry-up, but other options are usually available).

A few B&Bs are reluctant to accept credit cards or travellers' cheques, or may charge a premium for doing so. It's advisable to have some alternative method of payment, preferably cash. Any regional tourist office should be able to supply a list of local registered B&Bs on request, though they cannot make specific recommendations, and may charge a fee or a commission for making bookings on your behalf. Travel websites such as www.enjoyengland.com are also a good resource, as is the **London Bed and Breakfast Agency**, who offer rooms in private homes.

HOTEL GRADINGS

Recent but only partially successful attempts have been made to harmonize the confusing and often conflicting systems of accommodation classification used by the various tourist boards and motoring organizations, such as the AA and RAC. In England, hotel gradings are now based on a system of one to five stars awarded for facilities and service (the more stars, the more luxurious you can expect your hotel to be). Guesthouses and B&Bs are also graded with one to five stars, a quality score which is based on various aspects of the accommodation, including cleanliness and hospitality. Special awards (gold and silver, ribbons, rosettes, etc) are given for excellence in certain categories, such as an exceptional breakfast or a warm welcome. Scotland and Wales have their own quality-based gradings.

Number Sixteen, a boutique hotel in London *(see p558)*

PRICES AND BOOKINGS

Make sure you understand clearly what terms you are being offered when you book. Some hotels just quote room rates, but many quote a B&B or half board (dinner, bed and breakfast) rate per person. Rates are generally inclusive of VAT and service but some top-range hotels make additional charges; most charge hefty single-person supplements.

Prices in London start at around £80 per night for a standard en suite double room, including breakfast, but could be well over £200 (without breakfast) at the top end of the scale. Outside London, prices tend to be cheaper, starting from around £70 for an en suite double with breakfast. Bed-and-breakfast accommodation outside London starts from around £35 per person per night (though prices vary seasonally and regionally). Farm guest-houses (which occasionally include dinner) can be very good value, at around £45 for half board per person.

The elegant hallway of the Gore Hotel in London *(see p562)*

Most hotels request confirmation in writing and a deposit in advance (a credit card number will generally do). E-mail bookings are now commonplace, and some hotels have an on-line booking facility on their website. Business or chain hotels often give big discounts; contact central reservations as well as the hotel itself to see which one will give you the best deal. Websites such as Expedia and Travelocity are often the easiest and most economical means of booking, especially when looking for a room and a flight together.

The folly of Doyden Castle, Cornwall, now a National Trust holiday cottage

Any hotel booking is a legally binding contract. If you don't show up, the full cost of your stay may be charged. Most hotels will refund your deposit if they are able to relet the room, but some will charge a penalty, depending how close to your stay you cancel. Most travel insurance policies cover cancellation charges for pre-booked UK hotel stays of more than two days, if you have a satisfactory reason.

Watch out for those hidden extras. Telephone charges from hotel rooms have a high mark-up, and rates quoted per unit do not always indicate too clearly how much time you get for your money. Consider using a lobby payphone instead.

Roadside signboard for bed-and-breakfast

Certain chains have a regrettable policy of charging meals or other extras to your credit card weeks after you have left the hotel; check your card statement carefully.

There is no need to tip staff unless they go out of their way to perform some very exceptional duty, such as booking theatre tickets or restaurants for you.

SELF CATERING

Self catering has many attractions, especially for families on a budget and with young children. Tourist boards give accommodation a one to five star rating for quality and facilities, much the same as for hotels. The range of places to let for holiday rentals is huge, from luxury apartments to log cabins or converted farm buildings. Character properties are available from conservation organizations such as the **Landmark Trust**, which restores buildings of historic or architectural interest and makes them available for short-term lets, or the **National Trust** *(see p29)*, which has a number of holiday cottages on its estates. They tend to be very popular, so book well ahead.

Annually updated self-catering guides are a useful source of listings. Also try specialist agencies, tour operators and the small ads in newspapers. Tourist offices can supply up-to-date regional lists and can also offer a booking service.

Confirm what is included in the price (cleaning, electricity, etc.) and check whether any extra fees, deposits or insurance charges will be added to the bill.

CARAVANNING, CAMPING AND MOTOR HOMES

Most of Britain's campsites and caravan (trailer) parks open only for about six months of the year (typically from Easter to October), but you will need to make reservations in advance. Helpful organizations in Britain include the **Camping and Caravanning Club** and the Caravan Club, which publish lists of their member parks and operate their own grading systems.

Camping or caravanning pitches typically cost between £15 and £20 per night. The **Forestry Commission** operates a number of sites in scenic woodland locations throughout the UK.

Motor homes give greater freedom to explore at your own pace and a wider choice of places to stay – including most campsites and caravan parks. Some operators will let you pick up your vehicle directly from an airport or ferry terminal. The **Motor Caravanners' Club** produces a useful monthly magazine.

Campsite, Ogwen Valley, Snowdonia

DISABLED TRAVELLERS

All the UK's tourist boards provide detailed information about disabled access in their accommodation and sightseeing guides. National Accessible Scheme gradings are awarded to properties approved under the Tourism for All initiative for various categories of disability.

For more information on these gradings, or other advice on accommodation and travel for disabled visitors, contact **Tourism for All**. Another useful organization is **RADAR** (the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation), which publishes a yearly *Holidays in the British Isles: A Guide for Disabled People.* Also good is the Enjoy England website (www.enjoyengland.com), which has dedicated pages on accessible travel. The listings on pp556–99 indicate which hotels have wheelchair access, but you are strongly advised to check when booking that it matches your needs. The same is true of camping and caravan sites.

DIRECTORY

For more tips on different types of accommodation, see **www**.visitbritain.com

HOTELS

Accor Hotels
(Ibis, Novotel)
Tel *0871 702 9469.*
www.accorhotels.com

Best Western
Tel *08454 567050.*
www.bestwestern.co.uk

Book Direct Rooms
www.bookdirectrooms.com

Hilton International
Tel *0870 590 9090.*
www.hilton.co.uk

Intercontinental Hotels Group
Tel *0871 423 4876.*
www.ichotelsgroup.com

Hotel du Vin
Tel *01962 850676.*
www.hotelduvin.com

Malmaison
Tel *08453 654247.*
www.malmaison.com

Premier Inn
Tel *0870 242 8000.*
www.premiertravelinn.com

Pride of Britain
Tel *0800 089 3929.*
www.prideofbritainhotels.com

QMH Hotels
Tel *01708 730522.*
www.qmh-hotels.com

Travelodge
www.travelodge.co.uk

Wolsey Lodges
Tel *01473 822058.* **www**.wolseylodges.com

BED-AND-BREAKFASTS

London Bed and Breakfast Agency
Tel *020 7586 2768.*

CARAVANNING, CAMPING AND MOTOR HOMES

Camping and Caravanning Club
Tel *0845 130 7633.*
www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk

Forestry Commission
Tel *0845 130 8223.*
www.forestholidays.co.uk

Motor Caravanners' Club
Tel *020 8893 3883.*
www.motorcaravanners.eu

SELF-CATERING

Landmark Trust
Tel *01628 825925.*
www.landmarktrust.org.uk

National Trust
Tel *0844 800 2070.*
www.nationaltrustcottages.co.uk

National Trust for Scotland
Wemyss Hse, 28 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4ET. ***Tel*** *0844 493 2100.*
www.nts.org.uk

Snowdonia Tourist Services
High Street, Porthmadog, Gwynedd LL49 9PG. ***Tel*** *01766 513829.* **www**.snowdoniatourist.com

DISABLED TRAVELLERS

RADAR
Unit 12, City Forum, 250 City Road, London, EC1V 8AF. ***Tel*** *020 7250 3222.*
www.radar.org.uk

Tourism for All
c/o Vitalise, Shap Road Industrial Estate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6NZ.
Tel *0845 124 9971.*
www.tourismforall.org.uk

Choosing a Hotel

The hotels in this guide have been selected across a wide price range for their excellent, facilities, good value and location. Many also have a recommended restaurant. The chart lists the hotels by region, starting with London. For more details on restaurants see pages 608–651.

PRICE CATEGORIES
For a standard double room per night, inclusive of service charge and any additional taxes such as VAT:

£ under £80
££ £80–£120
£££ £120–£180
££££ £180–£220
£££££ over £220

LONDON

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Dover Hotel £
42–44 Belgrave Rd, SW1 ***Tel*** *020 7821 9085* ***Fax*** *020 7834 6425* ***Rooms*** *34* ***Map*** *18 F2*

This well-maintained hotel is terrific value for money. It may not be luxurious once past the grand stucco façade, but the decor is refreshingly modern and every room has satellite TV and pristine en suite shower and WC. It's handy for Victoria Station and Pimlico's many pubs and cafés. **www.dover-hotel.co.uk**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Vandon House ⇅ ▤ ££
1 Vandon St, SW1 ***Tel*** *020 7799 6780* ***Fax*** *020 7799 1464* ***Rooms*** *32* ***Map*** *11 A5*

The short walk to Westminster and Buckingham Palace is one reason for the popularity of this bright budget hotel. The rooms – singles, twins with or without en suite facilities, and family rooms – are simple but good value. A Continental buffet breakfast is included and there is free Wi-Fi in every room. **www.vandonhouse.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER B&B Belgravia £££
64–66 Ebury St, SW1 ***Tel*** *020 7259 8570* ***Fax*** *020 7259 8591* ***Rooms*** *17* ***Map*** *18 E2*

Renovated to provide a contemporary interior, this Victorian building caters for the discerning traveller's every need. Facilities include flat screen TVs in all rooms and free Internet access, and with cooked breakfasts made to order you will really feel at home. **www.bb-belgravia.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Citadines Covent Garden/Holborn ⇅ P ▤ £££
94–99 High Holborn, WC1 ***Tel*** *020 7395 8800* ***Fax*** *020 7395 8799* ***Rooms*** *192* ***Map*** *11 C1*

This central branch of the apart'hotel chain underwent a refurbishment in 2010. It offers pleasant, good-value accommodation for up to four people. Studios or one-bedroom apartments have kitchenettes, dining tables, satellite TVs and Hi-Fis. There are also handy business facilities and an on-site breakfast room. **www.citadines.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Elizabeth Hotel and Apartments ⇅ ▤ £££
37 Eccleston Square, SW1 ***Tel*** *020 7828 6812* ***Fax*** *020 7828 6814* ***Rooms*** *37 & 5 apartments* ***Map*** *18 E2*

The rates are surprisingly reasonable in this elegant town house hotel on a grand garden square, Winston Churchill used to live a couple of doors down. Rooms are simple yet tastefully furnished and guests have access to the private gardens and stately drawing room with newspapers, tea, coffee and biscuits. **www.elizabethhotel.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER City Inn Westminster ⇅ P 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ ££££
30 John Islip St, SW1 ***Tel*** *020 7630 1000* ***Fax*** *020 7233 7575* ***Rooms*** *460* ***Map*** *19 B2*

Around the corner from Tate Britain, City Inn is unpretentiously modern. Rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows, some of which command Thames views, and luxuries such as robes, flatscreen TVs and DVD players. There's a red cocktail lounge and café with outside tables. Enquire about cheap weekend deals. **www.cityinn.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Hazlitt's ⇅ ▤ ♿ ££££
6 Frith St, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7434 1771* ***Fax*** *020 7439 1524* ***Rooms*** *30* ***Map*** *11 A1*

One of central London's most characterful hotels, Hazlitt's occupies a group of beautiful Georgian buildings in the heart of Soho. Behind the grand doorway are sumptuous rooms full of period decor and antiques, as well as modern electronics that are cleverly concealed. The lounges are hugely atmospheric, and service is exceptional. **www.hazlittshotel.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Brown's Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££
Albemarle Street, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7493 6020* ***Fax*** *020 7493 9381* ***Rooms*** *117* ***Map*** *10 F3*

A byword for elegant Mayfair luxury since 1837, Brown's occupies several Georgian townhouses. The interior has been beautifully renovated to combine modern facilities and styling with a timeless sense of opulent comfort. The restaurant is excellent, and afternoon tea is more intimate than at some grand hotels. **www.brownshotel.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Claridges ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ▤ £££££
Brook St, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7629 8860* ***Fax*** *020 7499 2210* ***Rooms*** *203* ***Map*** *10 E2*

Favoured by the European aristocracy in the 19th century, Empress Eugènie wintered here. Nowadays it attracts show business *glitterati* and business clients alike. Rooms range from Victorian to contemporary by way of fabulous Art Deco suites. Gordon Ramsay's fêted restaurant and a smart bar are further draws. **www.claridges.co.uk**

Key to Symbols *see back cover flap*

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Covent Garden Hotel ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

10 Monmouth St, WC2 ***Tel*** *020 7806 1000* ***Fax*** *020 7806 1100* ***Rooms*** *58* ***Map*** *11 B2*

This exquisite hotel's Covent Garden location is one reason why it's popular with thespians. Part of the Firmdale chain, it is decorated in contemporary-English style with antiques and fresh fabrics. Brasserie Max is a popular meeting spot and films are shown in the luxurious screening room at weekends. **www.firmdalehotels.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Metropolitan ⇅ P 🍴 🍸 ▤ £££££

19 Old Park Lane, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7447 1047* ***Fax*** *020 7447 1147* ***Rooms*** *150* ***Map*** *10 D3*

The Metropolitan redefined the London luxury hotel when it opened in 1997 and its blond wood, pale fabrics and large plate-glass windows still epitomise modern chic. With holistic spa treatments, a top Japanese restaurant upstairs and entry to the exclusive Met Bar, you won't have to stray far. **www.metropolitan.co.uk**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER One Aldwych ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

1 Aldwych, WC2 ***Tel*** *020 7300 1000* ***Fax*** *020 7300 1001* ***Rooms*** *105* ***Map*** *11 C2*

A grand contemporary hotel in former Edwardian newspaper offices. Impressive details include original art and tarazzo-stone bathrooms with heated floors and mini TVs. There's a spacious health club with a swimming pool, two fabulous restaurants and the buzzing, high-ceilinged Lobby Bar. **www.onealdwych.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Radisson Edwardian Hampshire ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

31–36 Leicester Square, WC2 ***Tel*** *020 7839 9399* ***Fax*** *020 7930 8122* ***Rooms*** *127* ***Map*** *11 B2*

Colourful Leicester Square is a good base if you want to make the most of London's nightlife, as it's well placed for the theatre district, bars, clubs and restaurants. This luxurious Radisson has designer bedrooms with Philippe Starck bathrooms and Bose sound systems in the suites. Conference rooms also available. **www.radissonedwardian.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Ritz ⇅ P 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

150 Piccadilly, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7493 8181* ***Fax*** *020 7493 2687* ***Rooms*** *136* ***Map*** *10 F3*

There are two staff for every room in this famous grand hotel on the edge of Green Park. You can even have your luggage unpacked for you. Rooms are in lavish Louis XVI style with antique furnishings and gold leaf, plus all mod cons. The Rivoli Bar has been restored to its Art Deco splendour. **www.theritzlondon.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Savoy ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

Strand, WC2 ***Tel*** *020 7836 4343* ***Fax*** *020 7240 6040* ***Rooms*** *263* ***Map*** *11 C2*

This legendary hotel was an afterthought, Richard D'Oyly Carte capitalized on the success of his Savoy Theatre by providing a place to stay. The rest is history. Monet painted the Thames view from his window, Elton John flooded a bathroom and the dry martini was made popular in the bar. There's a rooftop pool as well. **www.fairmont.com/savoy**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER The Connaught ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

Carlos Place, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7499 7070* ***Fax*** *020 7495 3262* ***Rooms*** *121* ***Map*** *10 E3*

The Connaught maintains its traditional charm while moving with the times. Facilities include butler service and a state-of-the-art gym. The interior feels less stuffy since many of the public rooms, including The Connaught and the Coburgh Bar, were restyled by renowned designer Nina Campbell. **www.theconnaught.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER The Dorchester ⇅ P 🍴 🍸 ▤ £££££

Park Lane, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7629 8888* ***Fax*** *020 7629 8080* ***Rooms*** *250* ***Map*** *10 D3*

The epitome of the glamorous luxury hotel, with an outrageously lavish lobby and a star-studded history, the Dorchester has been revamped but maintains its tasteful floral bedrooms. The Art Deco-style marble baths are probably the deepest in London. For even more pampering, pop down to the fabulous Art Deco spa. **www.thedorchester.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER The Soho Hotel ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

4 Richmond Mews, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7559 3000* ***Fax*** *020 7559 3003* ***Rooms*** *91* ***Map*** *11 A1*

One of the most striking of the Firmdale Group's six luxury boutique hotels in London, The Soho occupies an impressive warehouse-like building. Its guestrooms and stunning apartments mix modern chic and traditional English styles. A fine gym and holistic beauty treatments complete the sophisticated experience. **www.firmdale.com**

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER The Trafalgar ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

2 Spring Gardens, SW1 ***Tel*** *020 7870 2900* ***Fax*** *020 7870 2911* ***Rooms*** *129* ***Map*** *11 B3*

A "boutique-style" departure for the Hilton group, with one of London's best locations – right on Trafalgar Square. The luxurious and spacious rooms are minimalist in style, with fine electronics (free Wi-Fi throughout) and other fittings. There is a roof garden with fabulous views and the chic Rockwell bar-restaurant offers a global menu. **www.thetrafalgar.com**

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Edward Lear ££

28–30 Seymour St, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7402 5401* ***Fax*** *020 7706 3766* ***Rooms*** *31* ***Map*** *9 C2*

This characterful small hotel is in the former home of Victorian poet and artist Edward Lear. Rooms are tidy and spacious with satellite TVs. Opt for en suite or shared facilities to keep the cost down. There's a computer with free Internet access and leather seating in the pleasant guests' lounge. **www.edlear.co.uk**

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK The Rembrandt ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ▤ £££

11 Thurloe Place, SW7 ***Tel*** *020 7589 8100* ***Fax*** *020 7225 3476* ***Rooms*** *194* ***Map*** *17 A1*

Well located opposite the Victoria & Albert Museum, this traditional mid-range hotel has been attractively modernized. Guestrooms are comfortable, and all have free Wi-Fi. There is a relaxing lounge bar and a carvery restaurant. Extras include an excellent fitness centre with a pool. **www.sarova.com/rembrandt**

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK The Rockwell £££

181–183 Cromwell Rd, SW5 ***Tel*** *020 7244 2000* ***Fax*** *020 7244 2001* ***Rooms*** *40* ***Map*** *16 D2*

Sumptuous and classy, the rooms at The Rockwell are a haven from the bustle of the capital. Egyptian cotton sheets and plush feather pillows, combined with bathroom fittings by Philippe Starck and Hans Grohe, provide guests with a thoroughly rejuvenating experience. **www.therockwell.com**

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Knightsbridge Green Hotel ££££

159 Knightsbridge, SW1 ***Tel*** *020 7584 6274* ***Fax*** *020 7225 1635* ***Rooms*** *29* ***Map*** *9 C5*

A shopaholic's dream, this well-kept hotel is right on Knightsbridge, and rates are reasonable. The tidy, modern rooms are regularly upgraded and feature air conditioning, satellite TVs and wireless internet access. Some have views over Hyde Park. There's also a small business centre on-site. **www.thekghotel.com**

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK 41 Hotel £££££

41 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1 ***Tel*** *020 7300 0041* ***Fax*** *020 7300 0041* ***Rooms*** *30* ***Map*** *18 F1*

Plush luxury with a distinctive individuality is the hallmark of this unique, hugely praised hotel. Service is both exceptional and personal, as staff respond to any imaginable need. Lounges and public areas evoke a traditional London club, while the chic bedrooms are decorated in black and white. **www.41hotel.com**

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Number Sixteen £££££

16 Sumner Place, SW7 ***Tel*** *020 7589 5232* ***Fax*** *020 7584 8615* ***Rooms*** *42* ***Map*** *17 A2*

This smaller, more discreet part of the Firmdale boutique hotel group occupies a Kensington townhouse with a charming garden. Rooms are bright, imaginatively stylish and very well equipped. There's no restaurant, but afternoon tea is served in the lounge or garden, and there is 24-hour room service. **www.firmdale.com**

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK The Capital £££££

22–24 Basil St, SW3 ***Tel*** *020 7589 5171* ***Fax*** *020 7225 0011* ***Rooms*** *49* ***Map*** *9 C5*

Situated between Harrods and Harvey Nichols, this service-oriented hotel even offers personal shoppers and jogging partners. Its Michelin two-starred restaurant has been refurbished in 1940s-influenced style. Bedrooms feature king-size beds, designer fabrics and the latest technology. **www.capitalhotel.co.uk**

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK The Halkin £££££

5 Halkin St, SW1 ***Tel*** *020 7333 1000* ***Fax*** *020 7333 1100* ***Rooms*** *41* ***Map*** *10 D5*

Modern comforts meet Eastern serenity at this gracious luxury hotel. Warm wood, curving lines and creamy bed linen are accented by Southeast Asian art handpicked by the Singaporean owner. Be sure to have a meal at Nahm, it's the only Michelin-starred Thai restaurant outside Thailand. **www.halkin.como.bz**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Ashlee House £

261–265 Grays Inn Rd, WC1 ***Tel*** *020 7833 9400* ***Fax*** *020 7833 9677* ***Rooms*** *34* ***Map*** *3 C3*

This backpackers' hostel offers dorm-style accommodation as well as a few low-cost single and double rooms. Common spaces are bright and comfortable, and the Internet room has Wi-Fi access (charged). The same owners operate the similar Clink Hostel nearby. **www.ashleehouse.co.uk**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Arosfa Hotel ££

83 Gower St, WC1 ***Tel*** *020 7636 2115* ***Fax*** *020 7323 5141* ***Rooms*** *15* ***Map*** *3 A5*

A city B&B, the Arosfa is one of central London's real bargains. Its cosy, well-kept rooms are set in a classic Bloomsbury townhouse that was once home to the painter Millais. The owners are welcoming, and the lounges and breakfast room suitably comfortable. Free Wi-Fi access is provided in all rooms. **www.arosfalondon.com**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Crescent Hotel ££

49–50 Cartwright Gardens, WC1 ***Tel*** *020 7387 1515* ***Fax*** *020 7383 2054* ***Rooms*** *27* ***Map*** *3 B4*

One of several hotels in this striking Regency Street, the Crescent has been run by the same family since the 1950s. Most of the well-kept bedrooms have en suite facilities. Soft drinks and snacks are served in the lounge, and guests can use the tennis courts in the private gardens. **www.crescenthoteloflondon.com**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Euston Square Hotel ££

152–156 North Gower St, NW1 ***Tel*** *020 7388 0099* ***Fax*** *020 7383 7165* ***Rooms*** *75* ***Map*** *3 A4*

A chic stopover close to Euston Station. Rooms may be on the small side, but they are stylishly kitted out in dark wood and cream leather, with flatscreen TVs, a music library and tasteful tiled bathrooms. Complimentary papers and squashy sofas are on offer in the airy lounge and there's also a restaurant. **www.euston-square-hotel.com**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Harlingford Hotel ££

61-63 Cartwright Gardens, WC1 ***Tel*** *020 7387 1551* ***Fax*** *020 7387 4616* ***Rooms*** *43* ***Map*** *3 B4*

The Harlingford stands out among Bloomsbury's many mid-range hotels for its fresh approach. The hotel's lounge areas, breakfast room and bedrooms have been renovated in attractive contemporary colours, and guests have access to the private garden square in front. A Continental or full English breakfast is included. **www.harlingfordhotel.com**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Hotel Cavendish ££

75 Gower St, WC1 ***Tel*** *020 7636 9079* ***Fax*** *020 7580 3609* ***Rooms*** *31* ***Map*** *3 A5*

This characterful B&B near London University has a fascinating history, DH Lawrence and the Beatles stayed here once. Rooms are simple yet comfortably furnished, and some have original fireplaces. Original artworks brighten up the breakfast room and there's a pretty garden as well. Shared facilities available. **www.hotelcavendish.com**

Key to Price Guide *see p556* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY 22 York Street £££

22 York St, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7224 2990* ***Fax*** *020 7224 1990* ***Rooms*** *10* ***Map*** *1 C5*

This beautiful property is a cut above most B&Bs. Liz and Michael Callis ensure that rooms in these two immaculately preserved Georgian houses are spotless and stylishly furnished with antiques and French quilts. A gourmet continental breakfast is served in the rustic kitchen. **www.22yorkstreet.co.uk**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Hart House Hotel £££

51 Gloucester Place, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7935 2288* ***Fax*** *020 7935 8516* ***Rooms*** *15* ***Map*** *9 C1*

This small, family-run hotel in a Georgian house north of Oxford Street has many return visitors. Rooms, all with Wi-Fi and other modern fittings, combine period charm with a contemporary style. The breakfasts are generous and included in the price. Gloucester Place is a busy street, so ask for a room at the back. **www.harthouse.co.uk**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes Hotel £££

108 Baker St, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7486 6161* ***Fax*** *020 7958 5211* ***Rooms*** *119* ***Map*** *1 C5*

The name may suggest a tacky theme hotel, yet this is anything but that. You enter this Baker Street boutique hotel via its stylish bar. Contemporary rooms, many with wooden floors, are softened with tactile throws and cushions; there are thoughtful details such as European and US sockets. The gym has spa facilities. **www.parkplaza.com**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY The Sumner £££

54 Upper Berkeley St, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7723 2244* ***Fax*** *0870 705 8767* ***Rooms*** *20* ***Map*** *9 C1*

The Sumner is an intimate boutique hotel located in a quiet street near Marble Arch. The interior has been carefully designed to combine contemporary styling, natural fabrics and state-of-the-art electronics with the original features of the 1820s building. Chic breakfast room and lounges. Free Wi-Fi throughout. **www.thesumner.com**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Dorset Square Hotel ££££

39 Dorset Square, NW1 ***Tel*** *020 7723 7874* ***Fax*** *020 7724 3328* ***Rooms*** *37* ***Map*** *1 C5*

Regulars prize this award-winning hotel near Regent's Park for its old-fashioned character and attention to detail. Rooms are opulently decorated to match the Regency building and are equipped with free Wi-Fi and other modern amenities. The Osteria dell'Orologio restaurant offers refined Italian cuisine. **www.dorsetsquare.co.uk**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Durrants Hotel ££££

26–32 George St, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7935 8131* ***Fax*** *020 7487 3510* ***Rooms*** *92* ***Map*** *10 D1*

Established in 1790, Durrants occupies a row of terraced houses and its warren of creaky rooms is delightfully old fashioned. Decor is traditional, old prints and antiques, but TVs are hidden in cabinets and bathrooms are modern. The restaurant and bar are period pieces. Only a few rooms are air conditioned. **www.durrantshotel.co.uk**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Montagu Place ££££

2 Montagu Place, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7467 2777* ***Fax*** *020 7467 2778* ***Rooms*** *16* ***Map*** *9 C1*

Well-located in fashionable Marylebone, this small hotel rings a few changes on the established boutique-hotel style. Rooms are comfortable and well equipped and are divided into "Comfy", "Fancy" or "Swanky" (the largest). Service is individual and helpful, and frequent special offers can make it a bargain. **www.montaguplace.co.uk**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY myhotel Bloomsbury ££££

11-13 Bayley Street, WC1 ***Tel*** *020 3004 6000* ***Fax*** *020 3004 6044* ***Rooms*** *78* ***Map*** *3 A5*

With just three branches – two in London, one in Brighton – the chic myhotels stand out for deliberately hip design, influenced by feng shui. The comfortable guestrooms boast luxurious linens and free Wi-Fi. There's a choice of three bar-restaurants, including a fashionable tapas bar. **www.myhotels.com**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Charlotte Street Hotel £££££

15 Charlotte St, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7806 2000* ***Fax*** *020 7806 2002* ***Rooms*** *52* ***Map*** *11 A1*

The ground floor bar is always buzzing with local workers as well as guests in this exquisitely designed hotel in a street full of restaurants. Reflecting the area's history, its decor nods to the Bloomsbury Set period with original artworks by Vanessa Bell and others. Weekend films in the screening room. **www.charlottestreethotel.com**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Sanderson £££££

50 Berners St, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7300 1400* ***Fax*** *020 7300 1401* ***Rooms*** *150* ***Map*** *10 F1*

The Sanderson's witty decor, red lips sofa and a framed portrait that seems to hang in mid-air, is like a surreal stage set. Rooms have every comfort, and the Malaysian restaurant, Suki, and two sophisticated cocktail bars are destinations in their own right. The Agua spa offers holistic pampering. **www.sandersonlondon.com**

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY The Langham, London £££££

1C Portland Place, W1 ***Tel*** *020 7636 1000* ***Fax*** *020 7323 2340* ***Rooms*** *382* ***Map*** *10 E1*

The Langham was Europe's first grand hotel when it opened in 1865 and still offers an ultra-luxurious experience behind its sprawling Victorian façade. Rooms achieve a tasteful middle ground between modern and traditional and there are extensive spa facilities including a swimming pool. Near Regent's Park. **www.langhamhotels.com**

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK All Seasons London Southwark Rose £££

47 Southwark Bridge Rd, SE1 ***Tel*** *020 7015 1480* ***Fax*** *020 7015 1481* ***Rooms*** *84* ***Map*** *13 A4*

All Seasons hotels are a boutique-style brand in the French Accor hotel group, and its London outpost has bright, modern rooms with good facilities for leisure and business travellers. The hotel provides excellent value and is well located for the Tate Modern and South Bank attractions. **www.southwarkrosehotel.co.uk**

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK London County Hall Premier Inn ⇅ 🍴 £££

Belvedere Rd, SE1 ***Tel*** *0870 238 3300* ***Fax*** *020 7902 1619* ***Rooms*** *314* ***Map*** *12 D5*

This branch of the budget Premier Inn chain is housed in the massive former County Hall on the Thames. The more expensive Marriott, which shares the building, has all the river views, but it's a good-value option next to the London Eye, near Waterloo and the Southbank Centre. Wireless Internet on-site. **www.premierinn.com**

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Novotel London City South ⇅ P 🍴 🏋 ▤ ♿ ££££

53–61 Southwark Bridge Rd, SE1 ***Tel*** *020 7089 0400* ***Fax*** *020 7089 0410* ***Rooms*** *182* ***Map*** *13 A3*

Billed as a "New Generation" Novotel, the interior has an airy, minimalist feel. Rooms are equipped with extras such as wireless Internet, minibar and even a radio in the bathroom. The fitness centre has a sauna and steam room, and the location is convenient for the venues and galleries of the South Bank. **www.novotel.com**

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Rookery ▤ ££££

12 Peter's Lane, Cowcross St, EC1 ***Tel*** *020 7336 0931* ***Fax*** *020 7336 0932* ***Rooms*** *33* ***Map*** *4 F5*

Occupying six Georgian houses and shops (with faded butcher's and baker's signs still visible on some), this Dickensian hideaway retains many original features, such as flagstone floors in the hall and ceiling beams in some of the rooms. Decorated with antiques throughout, it also offers all the latest technology. **www.rookeryhotel.com**

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK The Zetter ⇅ 🍴 ▤ ♿ ££££

86–88 Clerkenwell Rd, EC1 ***Tel*** *020 7324 4444* ***Fax*** *020 7324 4445* ***Rooms*** *59* ***Map*** *4 F4*

In an area known for its loft apartments, this is a loft hotel in a 19th-century warehouse. Rooms have exposed brick, quirky 1970s furniture, old Penguin books, hot-water bottles and high-tech extras, while vending machines on each floor dispense necessities. Hip Italian restaurant at street level. **www.thezetter.com**

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Andaz Liverpool Street ⇅ P 🍴 🏋 ▤ ♿ £££££

40 Liverpool St, EC2 ***Tel*** *020 7961 1234* ***Fax*** *020 7961 1235* ***Rooms*** *267* ***Map*** *13 C1*

This magnificent 19th-century railway hotel has been given a 21st century makeover. The bedrooms have all been designed to create the ultimate modern hotel experience, and there are four fabulous eateries and three bars. Special weekend deals are available. **www.london.liverpoolstreet.andaz.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Chelsea Guest House P £

372 Wandsworth Rd, SW8 ***Tel*** *020 7627 6262* ***Fax*** *020 7627 6268* ***Rooms*** *47*

Calling it "Chelsea" is a misnomer (it is actually in Wandsworth, south of the Thames), but this hotel offers an imaginative alternative to the high prices in other parts of town. Rooms are all en suite and are bright, modern and comfortable, with TV and Wi-Fi. **www.chelseaguesthouse.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD easyHotel £

14 Lexham Gardens, W8 ***Rooms*** *34* ***Map*** *16 D1*

The easy group's bright and basic budget hotels offer some of the cheapest en suite double rooms in London. The no-frills rooms are clean and well maintained with extra charges for the use of towels. All rooms have a TV and Wi-Fi. All bookings must be made online. **www.easyhotel.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Rushmore £

11 Trebovir Rd, SW5 ***Tel*** *020 7370 3839* ***Fax*** *020 7370 0274* ***Rooms*** *22* ***Map*** *15 C2*

Like the nearby Mayflower, the Rushmore is proof that accommodation doesn't have to be expensive to be stylish. Each room in this Victorian townhouse has been designed in a different style; even the bathrooms have been customized to fit in with the mood. Breakfast is served in a chic conservatory. **www.rushmore-hotel.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD The Mitre P 🍴 £

291 Greenwich High Rd, SE10 ***Tel*** *020 8293 0037* ***Fax*** *020 8269 0054* ***Rooms*** *15*

An inn since 1837, the Mitre is one of historic Greenwich's best-known and most popular pubs. Above its three bars are 15 simple, traditionally furnished rooms available on a bed and breakfast basis. All rooms have bathrooms and TV sets. A hearty menu is served in the bar, and there's a pleasant garden alongside. **www.mitregreenwich.com**

FURTHER AFIELD base2stay ⇅ ▤ ♿ ££

25 Courtfield Gardens, SW5 ***Tel*** *020 7244 2255* ***Fax*** *020 7244 2256* ***Rooms*** *67* ***Map*** *16 D2*

A unique hotel with an attractive combination of sleek boutique-style design, luxury extras and accessible prices. Rooms range from singles to family-sized suites and even small apartments. All options have mini-kitchens and an exceptional range of high-quality electronics (including free Wi-Fi). **www.base2stay.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Church Street Hotel 🍴 ££

29–33 Camberwell Church St, SE5 ***Tel*** *020 7703 5984* ***Rooms*** *30*

A hotel unlike any other in London – the friendly, well-travelled Spanish owners have decorated it with rich colours and quirky Mexican artifacts. There is a lovely, atmospheric bar-restaurant and free Wi-Fi connection. The generous organic breakfasts are included in the price. **www.churchstreethotel.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Garden Court Hotel ⇅ ££

30–31 Kensington Gardens Square, W2 ***Tel*** *020 7229 2553* ***Fax*** *020 7727 2749* ***Rooms*** *32* ***Map*** *8 D2*

An antique Beefeater guards the airy lobby of this well-maintained family hotel on a lovely garden square. The rooms of this Victorian townhouse are tastefully furnished and to keep the cost down, you can opt for shared facilities. Breakfast is included. Good value and close to Portobello Market. **www.gardencourthotel.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD Hampstead Village Guesthouse P ££

2 Kemplay Rd, NW3 ***Tel*** *020 7435 8679* ***Rooms*** *9*

This Victorian home, in the picturesque village of Hampstead, is intriguingly cluttered with antiques and curios. Breakfast is served in the garden in summer, English weather permitting. Rooms are equipped with hot-water bottles and fridge. The rates are cheaper if you forego en suite facilities. **www.hampsteadguesthouse.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Mayflower Hotel ⇅ P ££

26–28 Trebovir Rd, SW5 ***Tel*** *020 7370 0991* ***Fax*** *020 7370 0994* ***Rooms*** *48* ***Map*** *16 D2*

This beautifully furnished, budget-boutique hotel is a cut above the rest. The spacious, contemporary rooms have wooden floors and Eastern elements such as elaborately carved beds and rich silks. Marble bathrooms, ceiling fans and CD players are luxurious perks. There are also 35 tasteful apartments nearby. **www.mayflower-group.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD Mornington ⇅ ££

12 Lancaster Gate, W2 ***Tel*** *020 7262 7361* ***Fax*** *020 7706 1028* ***Rooms*** *66* ***Map*** *8 F2*

This formerly Swedish-owned hotel is now part of the quality Best Western chain. Bedrooms in the grand Victorian building near Hyde Park maintain a light, airy Scandinavian feel. There is no restaurant, but light snacks are served in the wood-panelled Library Bar in the evening. Inquire about special rates. **www.bw-morningtonhotel.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD Pavilion Hotel P ££

34–36 Sussex Gardens, W2 ***Tel*** *020 7262 0905* ***Fax*** *020 7262 1324* ***Rooms*** *30* ***Map*** *9 A1*

The Pavilion's understated brick exterior may not stand out in this hotel-lined strip, but inside it's a world away from boring B&Bs. The fabulously themed rooms, from the rich panelling and tartan of "Highland Fling" to the antique Chinese chests and silks of "Enter the Dragon" are favoured by rock stars. **www.pavilionhoteluk.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Riverside Hotel P ££

23 Petersham Rd, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6UH ***Tel*** *020 8940 1339* ***Fax*** *020 8940 1339* ***Rooms*** *12*

This peaceful B&B is a good-value alternative to staying in central London. The charming rooms have TVs and en suite bathrooms; all enjoy river views, as do the lounge area and breakfast room. Self-contained apartments are also available for short-term rental. **www.riversiderichmond.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD Stylotel ⇅ P ££

160–162 Sussex Gardens, W2 ***Tel*** *020 7723 1026* ***Fax*** *020 7262 2983* ***Rooms*** *40* ***Map*** *9 A2*

Offering some of the cheapest rates in central London, Stylotel is true to its name, although the high-tech style may not suit all tastes. Rooms have wooden floors, aluminium walls, light-box bedside tables and futuristic bathrooms. There's a groovy lounge with curved stainless steel bar and blue leather seats. **www.stylotel.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Twenty Nevern Square ⇅ P ▤ ££

20 Nevern Square, SW5 ***Tel*** *020 7565 9555* ***Fax*** *020 7565 9444* ***Rooms*** *20* ***Map*** *15 C2*

Set on a quiet garden square, this intimate boutique hotel features gorgeous fabrics and fine beds including magnificent divans and four-posters. Wi-Fi and other modern electronics are available too, and breakfast is included. This is a very reasonably priced option. **www.20nevernsquare.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD Colonnade ⇅ P 🍴 ▤ £££

2 Warrington Crescent, W9 ***Tel*** *020 7286 1052* ***Fax*** *020 7286 1057* ***Rooms*** *43*

Near the picturesque canals of Little Venice, this hotel in two Victorian mansions has been operating since the 1930s. Freud stayed here while his house was being redecorated, and JFK paid a visit in the 1960s. The interior is grand yet unintimidating and every luxurious room has a different feel. **www.theetoncollection.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Guesthouse West ▤ ♿ £££

163–165 Westbourne Grove, W11 ***Tel*** *020 7792 9800* ***Fax*** *020 7792 9797* ***Rooms*** *20* ***Map*** *7 C2*

Formerly the Westbourne, Guesthouse West is a budget-conscious design hotel in an Edwardian house. Minimalist dark wood and beige rooms boast high-tech entertainment systems and Molton Brown toiletries. The hip Parlour Bar has terrace tables and Westbourne Grove's bars and boutiques are on the doorstep. **www.guesthousewest.com**

FURTHER AFIELD K West ⇅ P 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££

Richmond Way, W14 ***Tel*** *020 8008 6600* ***Fax*** *020 8008 6650* ***Rooms*** *220*

Housed in a former BBC studio building, this attention-grabbing hotel offers chic accommodation and an equally hip restaurant, Kanteen. The hotel is home to the K Spa, one of the most opulent in London. Wheelchair-accessible rooms are available. **www.k-west.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD New Linden Hotel ⇅ ▤ £££

59 Leinster Square, W2 ***Tel*** *020 7221 4321* ***Fax*** *020 7727 3156* ***Rooms*** *51* ***Map*** *8 D2*

Warm, subtle colour schemes and chic modern design are features of this stylish hotel on the borders of Notting Hill. Rooms combine a fresh, bright feel with sumptuous comforts and state-of-the-art electronics, including free Wi-Fi. Continental breakfasts are included and feature plenty of fresh fruit. **www.newlinden.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD Sydney House ⇅ ▤ £££

9–11 Sydney St, SW3 ***Tel*** *020 7376 7711* ***Fax*** *020 7376 4233* ***Rooms*** *21* ***Map*** *17 A2*

This small hotel is located just steps away from the chic shops of Brompton Cross. Airy rooms are furnished with blond wood furniture, Frette linen, contemporary art and thoughtful features such as American sockets in the ultra-modern bathrooms. Check the website for special rates. **www.sydneyhousechelsea.com**

FURTHER AFIELD The Hoxton ⇅ 🍴 ▤ ♿ £££

81 Great Eastern St, EC2 ***Tel*** *020 7550 1000* ***Fax*** *020 7550 1090* ***Rooms*** *205* ***Map*** *5 C4*

On the edge of the City, Hoxton is one of London's trendiest areas and has one of its hippest hotels. The Hoxton offers small but inventively styled rooms with plenty of technology including free Wi-Fi. Cutting-edge work by local artists is on show, and the Hoxton Grill bistro is great for people-watching. **www.hoxtonhotels.com**

FURTHER AFIELD The Petersham ⇅ P 🍴 £££

Nightingale Lane, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 ***Tel*** *020 8940 7471* ***Fax*** *020 8939 1098* ***Rooms*** *60*

This sprawling Victorian hotel perches on Richmond Hill overlooking the Thames. The elegant rooms are in keeping with the building's period grandeur, while integrating modern elements; some have spectacular views of the Thames. Unsurprisingly given its romantic location, it is popular for weddings. **www.petershamhotel.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD The Royal Park ⇅ P ▤ £££

3 Westbourne Terrace, W2 ***Tel*** *020 7479 6600* ***Fax*** *020 7479 6601* ***Rooms*** *48* ***Map*** *8 F2*

This new town house hotel near Hyde Park has a discreet luxury, which has attracted celebrity guests. Classic, unfussy rooms are furnished with exquisite fabrics, original prints and stone-tiled bathrooms. All the usual gadgetry, plus complimentary welcome drink and evening champagne in the gracious drawing room. **www.theroyalpark.com**

FURTHER AFIELD The Windmill on the Common P 🍴 ♿ £££

Clapham Common Southside, SW4 ***Tel*** *020 8673 4578* ***Fax*** *020 8675 1486* ***Rooms*** *29*

The broad terrace of this old pub, facing Clapham Common, has long been a popular place to eat and drink on summer evenings; when it's colder, there are big, cosy rooms inside. Guestrooms are available on a bed and breakfast basis and have been renovated with stylish design and excellent facilities. **www.windmillclapham.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD Aster House ▤ ££££

3 Sumner Place, SW7 ***Tel*** *020 7581 5888* ***Fax*** *020 7584 4925* ***Rooms*** *13* ***Map*** *17 A2*

Three-time winner of the Tourist Board's best B&B award, this friendly hotel in a white stucco house has immaculate bedrooms in a typical English-country style. A superior breakfast served in the palm-filled conservatory and a pretty garden complete with pond and resident ducks attract guests. Check the website for special deals. **www.asterhouse.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Miller's Residence ££££

111a Westbourne Grove, W2 ***Tel*** *020 7243 1024* ***Fax*** *020 7243 1064* ***Rooms*** *8* ***Map*** *8 D2*

This unconventional B&B is the home of antiques expert Martin Miller and is entirely furnished with objects from his collection. The hotel oozes opulent Victorian luxury and the rooms, all different, are named after poets. Two of the rooms are very grand "salon" rooms. Complimentary cocktails are served each evening. **www.millersuk.com**

FURTHER AFIELD The Hempel ⇅ 🍴 ▤ ♿ ££££

31–35 Craven Hill Gardens, W2 ***Tel*** *020 7298 9000* ***Fax*** *020 7402 4666* ***Rooms*** *50* ***Map*** *8 E2*

Designer Anouska Hempel's luxury retreat was one of London's first boutique hotels, and has kept its caché. The style is Japanese-influenced minimalism, emphasizing serenity, with several rooms looking out onto a Zen garden. Suites and apartments are especially stunning. The No. 35 restaurant has a refined global menu. **www.the-hempel.co.uk**

FURTHER AFIELD The Portobello Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ££££

22 Stanley Gardens, W11 ***Tel*** *020 7727 2777* ***Fax*** *020 7792 9641* ***Rooms*** *21* ***Map*** *7 B2*

This divinely decadent Notting Hill mansion has lured rock royalty for over 30 years with its hip location and extravagantly decorated rooms. Choose from such exotic retreats as the serene Japanese room with private grotto garden and the notorious "Round Bed Room", with its freestanding Victorian bath. **www.portobellohotel.com**

FURTHER AFIELD Blakes Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

33 Roland Gardens, SW7 ***Tel*** *020 7370 6701* ***Fax*** *020 7373 0442* ***Rooms*** *48* ***Map*** *16 F2*

Blakes is the original boutique hotel, created by designer Anouska Hempel over two decades ago. Rooms range in style from baronial manor to opulent Oriental and contain pieces collected on her travels. The discreet residential location has made it a favourite celebrity hideaway. Only some suites are air conditioned. **www.blakeshotels.com**

FURTHER AFIELD myhotel Chelsea ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

35 Ixworth Place, SW3 ***Tel*** *020 7225 7500* ***Fax*** *020 7225 7555* ***Rooms*** *45* ***Map*** *17 B2*

Sister hotel to myhotel in Bloomsbury, the Chelsea branch is similarly chic but slightly more traditional in style and a little more opulent. There's a very mellow spa, and the hip mybar restaurant-cocktail lounge, in vivid colours, has a lively global menu. **www.myhotels.com**

FURTHER AFIELD The Gore ⇅ 🍴 ▤ £££££

190 Queen's Gate, SW7 ***Tel*** *020 7584 6601* ***Fax*** *020 7589 8127* ***Rooms*** *50* ***Map*** *8 F5*

The Gore has been in operation for more than 110 years and, although all the modern amenities are available, it still preserves the atmosphere of a bygone age. Rooms feature four-poster beds, framed pictures, luxurious draperies and opulent fabrics. There's a panelled bar and casual bistro as well. **www.gorehotel.com**

FURTHER AFIELD The Milestone Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££££

1 Kensington Court, W8 ***Tel*** *020 7917 1000* ***Fax*** *020 7917 1010* ***Rooms*** *57 & 6 apartments* ***Map*** *8 E5*

This plush hotel opposite Kensington Palace features originally designed rooms, from the smart "Savile Row" to the Colonial-style "Safari Suite". Extras include gym and resistance pool, broadband Internet and Penhaligon's toiletries, 24-hour butler and use of the hotel Bentley. **www.milestonehotel.com**

Key to Price Guide *see p556* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

THE DOWNS AND CHANNEL COAST

BATTLE The Powdermills ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ ▤ £££

Powdermills Lane, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0SP ***Tel*** *01424 775511* ***Fax*** *01424 774540* ***Rooms*** *42*

A charmingly individual country hotel that was once a Napoleonic-era gunpowder works. The Powdermills is set in a stunning location amid 150 acres of grounds, with a pool and its own fishing lake. The rooms are sumptuously decorated in traditional style, staff are welcoming, and prices are very reasonable. **www.powdermillshotel.com**

BEAULIEU Master Builders House Hotel 🍴 ££

Bucklers Hard, Beaulieu, Hampshire, SO42 7XB ***Tel*** *01590 616253* ***Fax*** *01590 616297* ***Rooms*** *25*

Marketed by Distinguished Hotels, the Master Builders House stands on the creek where the famed "Hearts of Oak" ships of the Royal Navy were once built. It is on Lord Montagu's estate, which puts the National Motor Museum within minutes while the glorious New Forest is also at the doorstep. Breakfast included. **www.themasterbuilders.co.uk**

BRIGHTON De Vere Grand Brighton ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ♿ £££

97–99 Kings Rd, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 2FW ***Tel*** *01273 224300* ***Fax*** *01273 720613* ***Rooms*** *201*

Brighton's only five-star hotel, this is arguably the nation's finest big seaside hotel, located right on the seafront. There is a gymnasium and a magnificent Victorian dining room and bar that serves a classic British menu, as well as delicious cream teas. Includes breakfast. **www.devere.co.uk**

BRIGHTON Hotel Seattle ⇅ P 🍴 ▤ ♿ £££

Brighton Marina, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 5WA ***Tel*** *01273 679799* ***Fax*** *01273 679899* ***Rooms*** *71*

A fresh alternative to old-style seaside hotels, the imaginative Seattle has bright contemporary rooms with excellent facilities, and great sea views. Unlike some boutique hotels, it has fine provision for children, and the light, airy restaurant is delightful. A bargain, and very popular, so book well ahead. **www.hotelseattlebrighton.com**

BRIGHTON Hotel Du Vin Brighton 🍴 ££££

2–6 Ship St, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1AD ***Tel*** *01273 718588* ***Fax*** *01273 718599* ***Rooms*** *49*

Set in the Lanes conservation area, a stone's throw away from the seafront, this cutting-edge hotel and bistro is housed in a collection of eccentric, Gothic Revival and mock-Tudor buildings. All the bedrooms are decorated with Egyptian linen and handsprung mattresses. A Pub du Vin can be found next door. **www.hotelduvin.com**

BROCKENHURST Cottage Lodge P ♿ ££

Sway Rd, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, SO42 7SH ***Tel*** *01590 622296* ***Fax*** *01590 623014* ***Rooms*** *12*

This charming New Forest B&B has won green tourism awards. The setting is delightful, and the rooms, some with balconies, are pretty and comfortable. Extras include free Wi-Fi, and the delicious breakfasts feature fresh local produce. Facilities for disabled travellers are exceptional. **www.cottagehotel.org**

BROCKENHURST Balmer Lawn ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ £££

Lyndhurst Rd, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, S042 7ZB ***Tel*** *01590 623116* ***Fax*** *01590 623864* ***Rooms*** *55*

Built in the 1880s as a hunting lodge in the New Forest, Balmer Lawn is now an oasis of comfort and good service. The in-house Beresford's Restaurant has two AA Rosettes for fine dining. Indoor and outdoor heated pools, a health spa and tennis courts are among the leisure amenities. Breakfast is included. **www.balmerlawnhotel.com**

BROCKENHURST Rhinefield House 🍴 ≋ 🍸 £££

Rhinefield Rd, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, SO42 7QB ***Tel*** *01590 622922* ***Fax*** *01592 622800* ***Rooms*** *50*

Set in a New Forest clearing and surrounded by rhododendrons, Rhinefield is a magnificent 19th-century Jacobean Revival mansion, with Grindling Gibbons wood carvings and other priceless features. Star of the show is the Moorish-style Alhambra Room, now a gracious bar. Breakfast included. **www.handpickedhotels.co.uk/rhinefieldhouse**

CANTERBURY The Falstaff P ♿ ££

8–10 St Dunstans St, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8AF ***Tel*** *01227 462138* ***Fax*** *01227 463525* ***Rooms*** *46*

The Falstaff, at the heart of one of England's most historic cities, celebrated its 600th year in 2005. The one-time coaching inn has been extended into a restored wood mill. All rooms are en suite, and have TV and hot drink facilities. It stands next to the imposing Westgate Tower. **www.foliohotels.com/falstaff**

CANTERBURY The Abode ⇅ P 🍴 🍸 ♿ £££

30–33 High St, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2RX ***Tel*** *01227 766266* ***Fax*** *01227 451512* ***Rooms*** *72*

Located on the pedestrianized High Street, The Abode dates from the 16th century and has many original features. All the bedrooms, some furnished in Tudor or Georgian style, have satellite TV. There is a champagne bar, a fine dining restaurant and The Old Brewery for pub food. Breakfast included. **www.abodehotels.co.uk**

DEAL Number One B&B £

1 Ranelagh Rd, Deal, Kent, CT14 7BG ***Tel*** *01304 364459* ***Rooms*** *4*

Only 10 miles (16 km) from Dover, Georgian Deal has far more charm. The owners of this innovative B&B have renovated their house, just off the beach, in elegant contemporary style, and their attention to detail is seen in fine fabrics, exceptional facilities and delicious breakfasts. **www.numberonebandb.co.uk**

DOVER Wallett's Court Country Hotel & Spa P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 £££

Westcliffe, Dover, Kent, CT15 6EW ***Tel*** *01304 852424* ***Fax*** *01304 853430* ***Rooms*** *17*

Relax in a Tudor-style room in the manor house, with fine sea views and an oak-beamed ceiling, or enjoy a room in one of the converted ancient barns. The Spa, set in the grounds of Wallett's Court, has a Romanesque exercise pool, sauna and a mineral steam room. Breakfast included. Check the website for special deals. **www.wallettscourt.com**

EAST GRINSTEAD Gravetye Manor P 🍴 ££££

Vowels Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH1 94LJ ***Tel*** *01342 810567* ***Fax*** *01342 810080* ***Rooms*** *18*

Regarded by many as the establishment that started the country-house hotel movement. A Relais et Châteaux affiliate, it has an oak-panelled restaurant. In 1884, William Robinson, one of England's great gardeners, laid out the wonderful shrubs and flowerbeds. Activities include croquet and shooting. **www.gravetyemanor.co.uk**

EASTBOURNE The Grand Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ££££

King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4EQ ***Tel*** *01323 412345* ***Fax*** *01323 412233* ***Rooms*** *152*

Appropriately named, the imposing Grand is one of Britain's classic seaside hotels. Owners Elite Hotels have lavishly refurbished the property to meet 21st-century five-star requirements. Ideal for touring Sussex or just taking the sea air with strolls down the prom. Prices include breakfast. **www.grandeastbourne.com**

FOLKESTONE Quality Hotel Burlington ⇅ P 🍴 ££

Earls Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2HR ***Tel*** *01303 255301* ***Fax*** *01303 251301* ***Rooms*** *60*

This Victorian boutique hotel, situated close to the beach, has extensive public rooms, including a choice of lounges, the Bay Tree restaurant and a large cocktail bar. Bedrooms are pleasantly decorated and equipped with modern facilities. Some rooms have sea views. **www.theburlingtonhotel.com**

GUILDFORD Angel Posting House & Livery ⇅ £££

91 High St, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3DP ***Tel*** *01483 564555* ***Fax*** *01483 533770* ***Rooms*** *21*

Jane Austen and Admiral Nelson have been guests at this town centre coaching inn that welcomed its first guests in 1500. Old-world charm and high standards of hospitality ensure popularity. The atmospheric salon has a minstrel gallery, a fireplace and a 1685 coaching clock. **www.angelpostinghouse.com**

LEWES Millers ££

134 High St, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1XS ***Tel*** *01273 475631* ***Rooms*** *3*

Behind a neat Georgian frontage in Lewes's charming conservation area stands a 16th-century timber-framed building, which once belonged to the first Duke of Newcastle. Two of the double letting rooms have magnificent four-poster beds. Book in advance. The town is renowned for its antiques shops. **www.millersbedandbreakfast.com**

MID LAVANT Rooks Hill Guest House P ♿ ££

Lavant Road, Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0BQ ***Tel*** *01243 528400* ***Rooms*** *6*

This charming guesthouse is located within sight of the Goodwood Estate, famed for its horse racing and motor festivals. All the rooms are en suite and have been beautifully furnished to provide a real country feel. Breakfast is included in the price, and there is a great gastropub opposite. **www.rookshill.co.uk**

NEW MILTON Chewton Glen 🍴 ≋ 🍸 £££££

Christchurch Rd, New Milton, Hampshire, BH25 6QS ***Tel*** *01425 275341* ***Fax*** *01425 272310* ***Rooms*** *58*

The epitome of Edwardian elegance, Chewton Glen is located close to the sea. It is renowned for its food and the hotel also boasts a magnificent indoor pool and spa in addition to a range of outdoor sports and leisure activities. The rooms are constantly being updated to offer a high standard of comfort. **www.chewtonglen.com**

RINGWOOD Moortown Lodge ♿ ££

244 Christchurch Rd, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3AS ***Tel*** *01425 471404* ***Fax*** *01425 476527* ***Rooms*** *7*

This unpretentious country inn at the gateway to the New Forest, offers all modern in-room amenities, including high-speed Internet via broadband. Guests have access to the adjacent David Lloyd club, with its gym and pool. A full English breakfast is included. **www.moortownlodge.co.uk**

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS Hotel Du Vin & Bistro ⇅ 🍴 £££

Crescent Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2LY ***Tel*** *01892 526455* ***Fax*** *01892 512044* ***Rooms*** *34*

Superb quality without unnecessary frills. Sensible prices and trendy service are the key to success for the small but steadily growing Vin & Bistro chain. This branch opened in 1997 and immediately became a favourite for its modern styles of accommodation and cuisine catered in a spacious historic building. **www.hotelduvin.com**

RYE The Apothecary £

1 East St, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7JY ***Tel*** *01797 229157* ***Rooms*** *3*

On a cobbled street in the middle of historic Rye, this charming B&B has rooms above a coffee shop. The sloping ceilings, snug corners and views over the old town's rooftops provide plenty of character. All rooms have en suite bathrooms, TVs and mini-fridges. **www.bedandbreakfastrye.com**

RYE Jeake's House ££

Mermaid St, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7ET ***Tel*** *01797 222828* ***Rooms*** *11*

Creeper-clad Jeake's House is tucked away in Rye's atmospheric jumble of little cobbled streets. Guests are welcomed by the two resident cats and proprietors Jenny Hadfield and Richard Martin. There's an oak-beamed parlour and a book-lined bar, plus roaring fires on colder days. Breakfast included. **www.jeakeshouse.com**

SEAVIEW Seaview 🍴 ♿ £££

High St, Seaview, Isle of Wight, P034 5EX ***Tel*** *01983 612711* ***Fax*** *01983 613729* ***Rooms*** *28*

Once described as "the perfect seaside hotel", this is just the spot for an idyllic weekend. It's good for family holidays too. The kitchen has just been refurbished and the food is as deliciously inventive as ever. Crisp linen, maritime bric-à-brac and a warren of corridors and stairways all add to the romance. **www.seaviewhotel.co.uk**

SOUTHAMPTON Hunters Lodge P £

25 Landguard Rd, Southampton, Hampshire, SO15 5DL ***Tel*** *02380 227919* ***Rooms*** *14*

Attentive, personal service is a hallmark of this pleasant B&B, set in a Victorian house in a quiet part of Southampton. The guestrooms are traditionally styled, with good modern fittings, quality fabrics and free Wi-Fi. Breakfasts are excellent, and the hotel is well attuned to the needs of cruise-ship passengers. **www.hunterslodgehotel.net**

VENTNOR The Royal Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ≋ ♿ ££££

Belgrave Rd, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, P038 1JJ ***Tel*** *01983 852186* ***Fax*** *01983 855395* ***Rooms*** *54*

The Isle of Wight's largest premier hotel can be found in the elegant Victorian town of Ventnor. Gourmets can indulge in inspired cuisine in a palatial dining room replete with rich drapes, high ceilings and massive chandeliers. Explore the island or the staff can arrange a yacht charter. Breakfast included. **www.royalhoteliow.co.uk**

WICKHAM Old House Hotel & Restaurant P 🍴 £££

The Square, Wickham, Hampshire, P017 5JG ***Tel*** *01329 833049* ***Fax*** *01329 833672* ***Rooms*** *12*

Located just off the M27 motorway, this is a good option for those wishing to explore the Portsmouth, Southampton, Winchester triangle. Built in 1715 as a gentleman's town house, the building was converted into a hotel in 1970. You can also stay in a three-bedroom cottage a short walk away. Breakfast included. **www.oldhousehotel.co.uk**

WINCHESTER Hotel du Vin 🍴 ££

Southgate St, Winchester, SO23 9EF ***Tel*** *01962 841414* ***Rooms*** *24*

This chain of luxury boutique hotels began life in historic Winchester. The original Hotel du Vin occupies a fine Georgian building in the centre of town. Each room is sponsored by a different wine house and is individually styled; stay in the main house or in one of the cosy cottage rooms off the walled garden. The French bistro is superb. **www.hotelduvin.com**

WINCHESTER The Wykeham Arms P 🍴 ££

75 Kingsgate St, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9PE ***Tel*** *01962 853834* ***Fax*** *01962 854411* ***Rooms*** *14*

On a tiny lane in the middle of old Winchester, the Wykeham Arms, an inn since 1755, is full of historic character. The bedrooms of different sizes, some at the top of creaking staircases, are equally atmospheric, and have modern fittings too. Food is served in the lovely old bar. **www.fullershotels.com**

WINCHESTER Lainston House P 🍴 🍸 ♿ £££££

Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, S021 2LT ***Tel*** *01962 776088* ***Fax*** *01962 776672* ***Rooms*** *50*

One of England's most handsome hotels, Lainston House has country style yet is just minutes from the centre of Winchester. Behind that imposing Queen Anne red-brick frontage is a friendly welcome. There are 63 acres to wander in, a gourmet restaurant and you can always order a DVD from room service. **www.exclusivehotels.co.uk**

WORTHING The Beach Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 ♿ £££

Marine Parade, Worthing, Sussex, BN11 3QJ ***Tel*** *01903 234001* ***Fax*** *01903 234567* ***Rooms*** *79*

Lovingly restored by the Farnes family, The Beach is an Art Deco time warp, located right on Worthing's seafront promenade. Every period detail has been painstakingly renovated, but the amenities are now fully modern. Lifts serve all four floors and the hotel has its own car park. Inclusive of breakfast. **www.thebeachhotel.co.uk**

EAST ANGLIA

ALDEBURGH Wentworth P 🍴 ♿ £££

Wentworth Rd, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5BD ***Tel*** *01728 452312* ***Fax*** *01728 454343* ***Rooms*** *35*

Replete with antiques and log fires, the Wentworth Hotel has been run by succeeding generations of the Pritt family since 1920. All the bedrooms are well equipped with latest facilities, including satellite TV, and offer fine sea views. There are also three local golf courses. Includes breakfast. **www.wentworth-aldeburgh.com**

BUCKDEN Lion P 🍴 ♿ ££

High St, Buckden, Cambridgeshire, PE19 5XA ***Tel*** *01480 810313* ***Fax*** *01480 811070* ***Rooms*** *15*

Rescued from corporate ownership in 1982, this 15th-century, Grade II listed hotel is a classic country inn. It also has a resident ghost. Well-furnished bedrooms. The oak-panelled restaurant offers excellent wholesome food using the best of local produce. There is also a bar and lounge. Breakfast is included. **www.lionhotel.co.uk**

BURNHAM MARKET The Hoste Arms P 🍴 ♿ £££££

The Green, Burnham Market, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 8HD ***Tel*** *01328 738777* ***Fax*** *01328 730103* ***Rooms*** *36*

You can choose to stay in the pretty main part of the inn; in the Zulu wing with its modern African-flavoured styling and leather couches; in an old railway station, a five minutes' walk away; or in the luxury Georgian boutique hotel known as the Vine House. There is a great wine list. Rate includes breakfast. **www.hostearms.co.uk**

BURY ST EDMUNDS Angel Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 ♿ £££

Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1LT ***Tel*** *01284 714000* ***Fax*** *01284 714001* ***Rooms*** *75*

The virginia creeper-clad Angel dominates Bury St Edmunds' largest square. Rooms are individually decorated with modern flair or classical grace. Its public areas have always been the place for the local elite to meet. These days they are joined by a global clientele drawn by the hotel's reputation for contemporary British fine dining. **www.theangel.co.uk**

BURY ST EDMUNDS Ounce House P £££

Northgate St, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1HP ***Tel*** *01284 761779* ***Fax*** *01284 768315* ***Rooms*** *5*

A merchant's house dating from 1870, this spacious family home stands at the top of one of the finest residential streets in Bury St Edmunds. Bedrooms have a chintzy, Victorian style and are equipped with all the modern facilities. A bar operates in the drawing room. Includes breakfast. **www.ouncehouse.co.uk**

CAMBRIDGE Regency House ££

7 Regent Terrace, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB2 1AA ***Tel*** *01223 329626* ***Fax*** *01223 301567* ***Rooms*** *9*

The rooms at this budget guesthouse, many overlooking Parker's Piece park in central Cambridge, have a bright, fresh look, down pillows, TVs and free Wi-Fi. Several rooms share bathrooms. An ample Continental breakfast is included. **www.regencyguesthouse.co.uk**

CAMBRIDGE Arundel House Hotel P 🍴 £££

Chesterton Rd, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 3AN ***Tel*** *01223 367701* ***Fax*** *01223 367721* ***Rooms*** *103*

This hotel, created from a terrace of late 19th-century Victorian houses, overlooks the River Cam and is a short walk across the park from the city centre. The historic façade and gracefully decorated rooms have been retained while providing all the latest amenities. Parking is available. Includes continental breakfast. **www.arundelhousehotels.co.uk**

CAMPSEA ASHE The Old Rectory P 🍴 ££

Campsea Ashe, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 0PU ***Tel*** *01728 746524* ***Rooms*** *8*

All the delights of the Suffolk coastline are in easy reach – the music and culture of Snape Maltings, the Sutton Hoo Saxon burial ground and the towns of Woodbridge and Aldeburgh. An elegant Georgian house encircled by gardens, furnished in chic contemporary style. Includes breakfast. **www.theoldrectorysuffolk.com**

COGGESHALL The White Hart P 🍴 £

Market End, Coggeshall, Essex, C06 1NH ***Tel*** *01376 561654* ***Fax*** *01376 561789* ***Rooms*** *18*

Sleepy Coggeshall once boasted of having more inns and pubs per capita than any other town in the country. The atmospheric White Hart is one of the survivors, offering outstanding value for money in one of East Anglia's secret gems. All the rooms have en suite facilities. Full breakfast is included. **www.whitehart-coggeshall.com**

DEDHAM Dedham Hall P 🍴 ♿ ££

Brook St, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AD ***Tel*** *01206 323027* ***Fax*** *01206 323293* ***Rooms*** *22*

A 15th-century farmhouse and cottages on the edge of Dedham village, right beside footpaths to the most beautiful parts of "Constable Country". Rooms are both comfortable and atmospheric, and the pretty Fountain House restaurant has some of the area's most enjoyable cuisine. Residential art courses are offered. **www.dedhamhall.co.uk**

DEDHAM Maison Talbooth 🍴 ≋ ♿ ££££

Stratford Rd, Dedham, Colchester, Essex, C07 6HN ***Tel*** *01206 322367* ***Fax*** *01206 322752* ***Rooms*** *12*

The Milsom family are a legend in Constable country, taking hospitality to new levels of excellence. The essence of Victorian country-house grace and style, the hotel is just a few minutes from the riverside half-timbered Le Talbooth restaurant and the sister Milsom's hotel. There is a pool in the summer and a tennis court. **www.milsomhotels.com**

DUNWICH Ship Inn P 🍴 ♿ ££

St James St, Dunwich, Suffolk, IP17 3DT ***Tel*** *01728 648219* ***Fax*** *01728 648675* ***Rooms*** *12*

Before it sank into the sea, medieval Dunwich was East Anglia's busiest port and had a population of 3,000. The 500-year old ship survived and offers simple rooms in an out-of-the-way location. The restaurant is renowned for simply prepared home food, including fish and chips. Some rooms are dog-friendly. **www.shipatdunwich.co.uk**

ELY Lamb Hotel P 🍴 ££

2 Lynn Rd, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4EJ ***Tel*** *01353 663574* ***Fax*** *01353 662023* ***Rooms*** *31*

The Lamb makes no secret of its 15th-century coaching inn origins at the heart of the Fens *(see p196)*, close to the glorious cathedral. Oak panelling, arched picture-end windows, antique furnishings and candle-lit suppers – it's a haven of traditional values. Includes breakfast. Check the website for special rates. **www.thelamb-ely.com**

GREAT DUNMOW The Starr P 🍴 £££

Market Place, Gt Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1AX ***Tel*** *01371 874321* ***Fax*** *01371 876642* ***Rooms*** *8*

The Starr's elegant conservatory is just the place to enjoy the owners', Terry and Louise George, good food and fine wines before retiring to one of the eight comfortable bedrooms located in a cleverly converted stable block. One room has a four-poster and an impressive Victorian bathtub. Breakfast included. **www.the-starr.co.uk**

HARWICH The Pier Hotel & Restaurant P 🍴 ♿ ££

The Quay, Harwich, Essex, CO12 3HH ***Tel*** *01255 241212* ***Fax*** *01255 551922* ***Rooms*** *14*

Set close to where the Pilgrim Fathers set off on their epic voyage, The Pier overlooks neighbouring Felixstowe, the UK's busiest commercial port. Not surprisingly, there's an emphasis on fresh fish in the restaurant. The lovingly and individually furnished rooms are the latest in modern chic style. Includes continental breakfast. **www.milsonhotels.com**

HUNTINGDON Old Bridge

P 🍴 £££

1 High St, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 3TQ ***Tel*** *01480 424300* ***Fax*** *01480 411017* ***Rooms*** *24*

While the rooms are comfortable in this ivy-clad hostelry, the focus is very much on food and wine. A light pasta lunch or a full dinner – they cater for it all with aplomb and gusto and will send a menu on request. There is also a wine shop, and they do wine tastings, too. Breakfast is included. Business centre is a plus. **www.huntsbridge.com**

IPSWICH Salthouse Harbour

⇅ 🍴 ♿ £££

1 Neptune Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1AX ***Tel*** *01473 226789* ***Fax*** *01473 226927* ***Rooms*** *43*

Set right on the River Orwell, from which the writer George Orwell took his name. A substantial old seven-storey warehouse by Neptune Marina has been converted into a trendy loft-style hotel. Bedrooms are en suite with TVs, DVDs and Internet access. The food is equally good and they have an interesting wine list. **www.salthouseharbour.co.uk**

KINGS LYNN Knights Hill Hotel

P 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ ££

South Wootton, Norfolk, PE30 3HQ ***Tel*** *01553 675566* ***Fax*** *01553 675568* ***Rooms*** *79*

Close to King's Lynn, the royal estate at Sandringham and the North Norfolk coast, Knights Hill is a restored farm complex in 11 acres of gardens. Style ranges from the relaxed elegance of Rising Lodge to the rustic charms of the Farmers Arms. The health and leisure centre provides a pool and exercise areas. **www.bw-knightshillhotel.co.uk**

LAVENHAM Lavenham Priory

£££

Water St, Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk, C010 9RW ***Tel*** *01787 247404* ***Fax*** *01787 248472* ***Rooms*** *6*

At this 13th-century hotel you can have an-out-of-the-world experience at affordable prices, with exposed beams, polished floors and beds carved by a local craftsman. All the rooms are comfortably furnished with all the latest facilities. Breakfast included in the price. **www.lavenhampriory.co.uk**

LAVENHAM Swan

P 🍴 ££££

High St, Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk, C010 9QA ***Tel*** *01787 247477* ***Fax*** *01787 248286* ***Rooms*** *46*

Luxuriate below a wealth of exposed beams in a wonderful bedroom named after a local village. Other comforts include rich fabrics, cotton sheets and feather pillows. Some rooms have four-poster beds. The heavily-beamed restaurant has fine food and an extensive wine list. The Garden Bar is much simpler. **www.theswanatlavenham.co.uk**

LOWESTOFT Ivy House Country Hotel

P 🍴 ♿ £££

Ivy Lane, Beccles Rd, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 8HY ***Tel*** *01502 501353* ***Fax*** *01502 501539* ***Rooms*** *20*

Surrounded by countryside, Ivy House has huge gardens, with herbaceous borders and lily ponds. Rooms come with colour TV, tea and coffee making machines and en suite bathrooms. Also has conference rooms and the Crooked Barn restaurant is famous for its cuisine. Includes breakfast. **www.ivyhousecountryhotel.co.uk**

NEWMARKET The Rutland Arms

P 🍴 £££

33 High St, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8MB ***Tel*** *01638 664251* ***Fax*** *01638 666298* ***Rooms*** *46*

Newmarket is England's horse-racing capital, and owners, trainers and jockeys are among the regulars at a hotel that is jam-packed with period features. It's one of Newmarket High Street's prime buildings and has a pleasant courtyard for alfresco summer meals. The restaurant serves modern European food. **www.oxfordhotelsandinns.com**

NORTH WALSHAM Beechwood

P 🍴 ♿ £££

20 Cromer Rd, North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 0HD ***Tel*** *01692 403231* ***Fax*** *01692 407284* ***Rooms*** *17*

In 2003 this establishement became the first two-star hotel ever to win the VisitBritain "Hotel of the Year". Rooms are styled with antique furniture, some with four-poster beds. The highlight of the hotel is chef Steven Norgate's speciality, the "Ten-Mile Dinner", with all ingredients sourced from within 10 miles. **www.beechwood-hotel.co.uk**

NORWICH The Old Rectory

P 🍴 ≋ ££

103 Yarmouth Rd, Norwich, Norfolk, NR7 0HF ***Tel*** *01603 700772* ***Fax*** *01603 300772* ***Rooms*** *8*

The Old Rectory overlooks the River Yare in a pleasant suburb that is now a conservation area. Rooms are beautifully furnished, and chef James Perry has earned a good reputation for his daily changing menus. The outdoor heated pool is a real treat. A self-catering cottage for two is also available. Includes breakfast. **www.oldrectorynorwich.com**

SLOLEY Sloley Hall

P ££

Sloley, near Norwich, Norfolk, NR12 8HA ***Tel*** *01692 538582* ***Rooms*** *4*

Within acres of formal gardens, woods and parkland, this elegant late-Georgian manor has been subtly converted into a gracious B&B. The four rooms, each different, are all spacious and very comfortable, and breakfasts are generous. Well located for Norwich and the Norfolk Broads and coast. **www.sloleyhall.com**

SOUTHWOLD The Crown Hotel

P £££

90 High St, Southwold, Suffolk, IP18 6DP ***Tel*** *01502 722275* ***Fax*** *01502 727263* ***Rooms*** *14*

Next to its sister Adnams hotel, the Swan, this traditional hotel with modern facilities stands at the heart of East Anglia's most gracious little seaside resort. The beach is just five minutes walk away. A venue for all four seasons, it's a wonderful retreat from big city pressures and has a delightful bistro-bar. Includes breakfast. **www.adnams.co.uk**

WOODBRIDGE Seckford Hall

P 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ££

Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 6NU ***Tel*** *01394 385678* ***Fax*** *01394 380610* ***Rooms*** *32*

One of East Anglia's most successful country-house hotels, the Tudor façade features mullion windows and giant chimneys above a huge carved oak entrance door. The bedrooms have en suite facilities, and leisure activities include a pool, gym, beauty salon; and a golf club for a small fee. Includes breakfast. **www.seckford.co.uk**

THAMES VALLEY

AYLESBURY Hartwell House ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ £££££

Oxford Rd, Aylesbury, Oxfordshire, HP17 8NR ***Tel*** *01296 747444* ***Fax*** *01296 747450* ***Rooms*** *52*

A member of the Pride of Britain consortium, this hotel was once the home of the exiled King of France. Relax in palatial reception rooms with decorative ceilings, antique furniture and fine paintings. Enjoy the gourmet restaurant, the luxurious spa or walk in the Lancelot "Capability" Brown designed grounds. **www.hartwell-house.com**

BICESTER Bignell Park Hotel P 🍴 ♿ ££

Chesterton, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 1UE ***Tel*** *01869 326550* ***Fax*** *01869 322729* ***Rooms*** *22*

Built in 1740 and set in two and a half well-tended acres, the picturesque Bignell Park Hotel offers outstanding views from its luxurious individually styled rooms. Modern cuisine tempts the taste buds and romantic suppers may be taken on the minstrel's gallery. Includes breakfast. **www.bignellparkhotel.co.uk**

BRACKNELL Coppid Beech Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ ££

John Nike Way, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 8TF ***Tel*** *01344 303333* ***Fax*** *01344 301200* ***Rooms*** *205*

This popular family and business venue has its own dry ski slope and ice rink. There's a conference room, an evening entertainment programme and a health and fitness suite, which includes a children's pool. The restaurant has a good reputation, and there are also three bistro-pubs and a nightclub. Includes breakfast. **www.coppidbeech.com**

BRAY-ON-THAMES Monkey Island Hotel P 🍴 ££

Bray-on-Thames, Berkshire, SL6 2EE ***Tel*** *01628 623400* ***Fax*** *01628 675432* ***Rooms*** *26*

This unique hotel is set on its own mid-Thames island and is accessible only by boat or footbridge. The large bedrooms are housed in "The Temple", a Palladian fishing lodge built in the 1740s for the Duke of Marlborough. The Pavilion restaurant is housed in a separate building from the same era. **www.monkeyisland.co.uk**

BURFORD The Lamb Inn 🍴 £££

Sheep St, Burford, Oxfordshire, OX18 4LR ***Tel*** *01993 823155* ***Fax*** *01993 822228* ***Rooms*** *17*

Among the best in Burford, The Lamb Inn is a classic golden stone building with beamed ceilings. All the bedrooms are comfortably designed with en suite facilities. You can enjoy lunch or a traditional tea here, and dinner is served at the bar or in the main dining room (6:30–9:30pm). Close to many local attractions. **www.cotswold-inns/hotels.co.uk**

CHARLBURY The Bell at Charlbury P 🍴 ££

Church St, Charlbury, Oxfordshire, OX7 3PP ***Tel*** *01608 810278* ***Fax*** *01608 811447* ***Rooms*** *12*

Mellow golden Cotswold stone gives a handsome air to this convenient town-centre inn. Comfortable accommodation, fine food and drink and proximity to all the Cotswold attractions keep it eternally popular. Charlbury was once a centre for glove makers and Quakers. **www.bellhotel-charlbury.co.uk**

CHIPPERFIELD Two Brewers P 🍴 £

The Common, Chipperfield, Hertfordshire, WD4 9BS ***Tel*** *01923 265266* ***Fax*** *01923 261884* ***Rooms*** *20*

Set on the edge of a common in the peaceful village of Chipperfield, the Two Brewers was once the training quarters for great boxers such as Jem Mace and Bob Fitzimmons. There's a stone-floored taproom and the food is of gastro-pub quality. Bedrooms are furnished in keeping with the country-inn feel. Includes breakfast.

GREAT TEW Falkland Arms P 🍴 ££

Great Tew, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, OX7 4DB ***Tel*** *01608 683653* ***Fax*** *01608 683656* ***Rooms*** *5*

Oak beams, a flagstone floor and an inglenook fireplace set the mood in a Cotswold premises that is part thatch-roofed. This local pub is famous for its drinks and also provides comfortable B&B accommodation. All the rooms have en suite facilities and a colour TV. **www.falklandarms.org.uk**

HARPENDEN Harpenden House P 🍴 £££

18 Southdown Rd, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 1PE ***Tel*** *01582 449955* ***Fax*** *01582 769858* ***Rooms*** *76*

Conveniently located close to the M1, Luton Airport and for travelling to London, Harpenden House is a well-integrated mix of modern and traditional, with a loyal following among the business community. The main four-storey building is a handsome Georgian edifice. Also has a cocktail bar. **www.foliohotels.com**

HENLEY-ON-THAMES Red Lion P 🍴 ♿ ££

Hart St, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 2AR ***Tel*** *01491 572161* ***Fax*** *01491 410039* ***Rooms*** *34*

Overlooking the Royal Regatta course on the Thames and next to the church where the singer Dusty Springfield is buried, the Red Lion is a charming redbrick riverside inn. The pleasant, individually decorated rooms, many of them with river views, offer en suite facilities, and also has a restaurant and a bar. **www.redlionhenley.co.uk**

LONG CRENDON Angel P 🍴 ££

47 Bicester Rd, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, HP18 9EE ***Tel*** *01844 208268* ***Fax*** *01844 202497* ***Rooms*** *4*

In a village 32 km (20 miles) from Oxford, the age-old Angel is renowned for its good food. A Pacific Rim influence pervades the kitchen's mouthwatering output. There are just four elegantly decorated rooms, so personal attention is assured. The Cotswolds are in easy reach, as is Milton Keynes. Includes breakfast. **www.angelrestaurant.co.uk**

Key to Price Guide *see p556* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

MAIDENHEAD Elva Lodge Hotel P 🍴 ££

Castle Hill, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 4AD ***Tel*** *01628 622948* ***Fax*** *01628 778954* ***Rooms*** *26*

A standard-style modern hotel close to the centre of Maidenhead, the Elva Lodge is convenient for touring Windsor Castle, Henley and the other attractions of the Thames Valley. Service is efficient and while the hotel is orientated to business travellers, families will also feel welcome. Includes breakfast. **www.elvalodgehotel.co.uk**

MARLOW Granny Anne's P £

54 Seymour Park Rd, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 3EP ***Tel*** *01628 473086* ***Fax*** *01628 473086* ***Rooms*** *4*

With a pretty garden, this homely B&B stands out in an expensive area for good value and cosy, traditional comfort. Owners Anne and Roger are especially welcoming, offering afternoon tea to arriving guests. The copious breakfasts feature home-made bread. Two rooms share a bathroom. **www.marlowbedbreakfast.co.uk**

MARLOW MacDonald Compleat Angler ⇅ P 🍴 ♿ £££

Marlow Bridge, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RG ***Tel*** *0844 879 9128* ***Fax*** *01628 486388* ***Rooms*** *64*

This is one of England's most renowned historic hostelries. All the rooms are comfortably furnished with en suite facilities and have satellite TV, CD players, playstations and a minibar. Service standards are legendary. Its location overlooking Marlow Weir attracts guests. **www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/compleatangler**

MARLOW Cliveden ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ £££££

Taplow, Berkshire, SL6 OJF ***Tel*** *01628 668561* ***Fax*** *01628 661837* ***Rooms*** *38*

Built by the second Duke of Buckingham in 1666 and once the home of Lord and Lady Astor, this palace above the Thames has welcomed royalty, film stars and writers. All the rooms are handsomely decorated, and they have indoor and outdoor pools and extensive leisure facilities, including tennis, squash and boating. **www.clivedenhouse.co.uk**

MILTON Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons P 🍴 ♿ £££££

Church Rd, Great Milton, Oxfordshire, OX44 7PD ***Tel*** *01844 278881* ***Fax*** *01844 278847* ***Rooms*** *32*

This is where French expat Raymond Blanc literally carved his reputation as one of Britain's most acclaimed gourmet chefs. As if the food was not enough, the building is a handsome manor, surrounded by herb gardens, while the bedrooms are a mix of contemporary and traditional styles. **www.manoir.com**

MOULSFORD Beetle & Wedge P 🍴 ♿ ££

Ferry Lane, Moulsford on Thames, Oxfordshire, OX10 9JF ***Tel*** *01491 651381* ***Fax*** *01491 651376* ***Rooms*** *3*

A gorgeous Thames-side setting is the highlight of this ever-popular upscale hotel and its renowned restaurant, where it always pays to pre-book a table. The style is Anglo-French. The room decor is classic and there are river views and an opulent bathroom. **www.beetleandwedge.co.uk**

NEWBURY The Vineyard At Stockcross ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ £££££

Stockcross, Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 8JU ***Tel*** *01635 528770* ***Fax*** *01635 528398* ***Rooms*** *49*

The Vineyard raises the bar when it comes to country-house style. Best rooms are in the original house, but those in the modern wing are also outstanding for their contemporary look. Also available are a spa and treatment rooms. The restaurant serves highly inventive British cuisine. Includes breakfast. **www.the-vineyard.co.uk**

OXFORD Remont ⇅ P ▤ ♿ ££

367 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford ***Tel*** *01865 311020* ***Fax*** *01865 552080* ***Rooms*** *25*

This boutique B&B in Oxford is a chic, fresh and friendly place to stay. The comfortable rooms range from singles to family size and boast contemporary styling and first-rate electronics including free Wi-Fi. The breakfast buffet is in an airy room overlooking a creatively designed garden. A great bargain. **www.remont-oxford.co.uk**

OXFORD Macdonald Randolph Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 ♿ £££

Beaumont St, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 2LN ***Tel*** *0844 879 9132* ***Fax*** *01865 791678* ***Rooms*** *151*

The refined Randolph has starred in the TV series *Inspector Morse* and numerous movies, including *Shadowlands*. It's the veritable heart of Oxford, and a favourite for students' parents, American tourists and the business community. Rooms are tastefully decorated. Dining is in classical silver-service mode. **www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk**

OXFORD Old Bank ⇅ P 🍴 ♿ £££

92–94 High St, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 4BN ***Tel*** *01865 799599* ***Fax*** *01865 799598* ***Rooms*** *42*

This handsome stone building in the heart of this university city used to serve as a bank. Money still flows here as it is often fully booked – tribute to the sharp Armani styling of the rooms and the tempting new British cuisine. Conference room and beauty treatments are a plus; an off-site gym can also be used. **www.oldbank-hotel.co.uk**

OXFORD The Old Parsonage Hotel P 🍴 £££

1 Banbury Rd, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 6NN ***Tel*** *01865 310210* ***Fax*** *01865 311262* ***Rooms*** *30*

Walls of Cotswold stone screen the Old Parsonage from Oxford's passing hubbub, creating the pleasing illusion of a country retreat. The luxurious bedrooms are air conditioned and now have broadband Internet. Fresh Jersey lobsters are served in the restaurant from May through September. **www.oldparsonage-hotel.co.uk**

READING Millennium Madejski Hotel Reading ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ £££

Madejski Stadium (Jct 11 on M4), Reading, Berkshire, RG2 OFL ***Tel*** *0118 925 3500* ***Fax*** *0118 925 3501* ***Rooms*** *201*

John Madejski made his fortune from *Auto Trader* magazines, then saved Reading Football Club from extinction and built them a new stadium of which this hotel is a part. His love of fine food explains the high quality of the fare on offer; the rooms are of an equally high standard. Check the website for special rates. **www.millenniumhotels.com**

ST ALBANS Comfort ⇅ 🍴 ♿ ££

Ryder House, Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1HG ***Tel*** *01727 848849* ***Fax*** *01727 812210* ***Rooms*** *60*

One of America's biggest groups, Choice and their Comfort brand are now making their mark in the UK thanks to consistent quality and value prices. All the rooms are spacious, with big and firm beds. This hotel occupies a historic building in the centre of this hilltop town that was once a Roman stronghold. **www.choicehotels.com**

WINDSOR Sir Christopher Wren's House Hotel & Spa P 🍴 🏋 ♿ £££

Thames St, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1PX ***Tel*** *01753 861354* ***Fax*** *01753 860172* ***Rooms*** *96*

Stroll through the pedestrianized Thames Bridge from Eton College and on the right side is this handsome Georgian mansion. The riverside setting makes for a romantic dining experience while the spacious, individualized rooms brim with antiques. They also have a gym and a spa offering beauty treatments. **www.sirchristopherwren.co.uk**

WITNEY Rectory Farm 🌳 P £

Northmoor, Witney, Oxfordshire ***Tel*** *01865 300207* ***Rooms*** *2*

Located 10 miles (16 km) from Oxford, this grand 16th-century farmhouse has soft yellow-stone walls, lofty gables and arching windows. There are just two lovely B&B rooms, as well as self-contained cottages for rent. The Rectory is still a working family farm, and the eggs cooked for breakfast come fresh from the hens. **www.oxtowns.co.uk/rectoryfarm**

YATTENDON Royal Oak 🍴 ££

The Square, Yattendon, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG18 0UG ***Tel*** *01635 201325* ***Fax*** *01635 201926* ***Rooms*** *5*

A classic country pub in Berkshire, serving a pretty little village and tourists alike. The mood is smart and informal, and the contemporary take on traditional food is deservedly award-winning. All rooms are individually decorated and en suite. Includes breakfast. **www.royaloakyattendon.com**

WESSEX

ABBOTSBURY The Abbey House 🌳 P 🍴 ££

Church St, Abbotsbury, Dorset, DT3 4JJ ***Tel*** *01305 871330* ***Rooms*** *5*

Set in a large, stone country house, this charming guesthouse is well situated for exploring the beautiful Jurassic coast. The rooms offer a high level of comfort, with flat-screen TVs and king-size beds; most are en suite and one has a private sitting room. The restaurant and tea room is open Mar–Oct. **www.theabbeyhouse.co.uk**

BATH Bath Youth Hostel 🍴 ♿ £

Bathwick Hill, Bath, Somerset, BS2 6JZ ***Tel*** *0845 371 9303* ***Fax*** *01225 482947* ***Rooms*** *24*

This hostel occupies a beautiful Italianate mansion set in its own gardens, a short walk from the centre of Bath. The rooms are simple and clean, and the hostel is open all year round with 24-hour access. Parking is free on nearby Bathwick Hill. No children under three years of age allowed. **www.yha.org.uk**

BATH Villa Magdala ££

Henrietta Rd, Bath, Somerset, BA2 6LX ***Tel*** *01225 466329* ***Fax*** *01225 483207* ***Rooms*** *18*

Roy and Lois Thwaites create a homely ambience at this Victorian mansion basking in a peaceful location overlooking lovely Henrietta Park. It's a five-minute flat walk to the Roman baths and city centre shops. This is one of the few local hotels to have on-site guest parking. Includes breakfast and free Wi-Fi. **www.villamagdala.co.uk**

BATH The Queensberry Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 £££

Russell St, Bath, Somerset, BA1 2QF ***Tel*** *01225 447928* ***Fax*** *01225 446065* ***Rooms*** *29*

A boutique hotel in the centre of Bath that offers great service including a concierge with plenty of ideas about exploring the city. All rooms are individually designed, and the hotel's Olive Tree restaurant is one of the finest in Bath. The Old Q Bar here is popular for pre-theatre drinks. **www.thequeensberry.co.uk**

BATH The Windsor Guest Hotel £££

69 Gt Pulteney St, Bath, Somerset, BA2 4DL ***Tel*** *01225 422100* ***Fax*** *01225 422550* ***Rooms*** *15*

Set in an elegant Grade I protected Georgian terrace, just a short walk from Pulteney Bridge and the heart of Bath, the rooms in this hotel are individually decorated. Rooms are elegantly furnished and facilities include 24-hour room service and broadband access. Includes breakfast. **www.bathwindsorguesthouse.co.uk**

BATH Royal Crescent ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ££££

16 Royal Crescent, Bath, Somerset, BA1 2LS ***Tel*** *01225 823333* ***Fax*** *01225 339401* ***Rooms*** *45*

Located at the centre of Bath's glorious semi-circle of Georgian grandiosity. The simple but imposing Bath stone façade is the first glimpse of one of Britain's great hotels. Rooms brim with antiques, beds are luxuriant, there's a spa and the restaurant is elegance personified. Stay on B&B or half-board basis. **www.royalcrescent.co.uk**

BATH The Bath Priory Hotel P 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ ££££

Weston Rd, Bath, Somerset, BA1 2XT ***Tel*** *01225 331922* ***Fax*** *01225 448276* ***Rooms*** *31*

Located just outside the centre of Bath, this hotel offers upmarket luxury accommodation. There are lovely gardens for the summer months, and roaring fires and battered leather sofas make for a cosy stay in winter. The restaurant boasts Michelin-starred chef Michael Caines at the helm, and there is a superb boutique spa. **www.thebathpriory.co.uk**

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BLANDFORD FORUM The Crown Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ♿ ££

*West St, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7AJ **Tel** 01258 456626 **Fax** 01258 451084 **Rooms** 32*

A former coaching inn at the heart of a pretty market town, on the edge of Salisbury Plain, with strong military connections, including a fascinating tank museum nearby. Rooms are spacious and well equipped. The Georgian hotel boasts en suite rooms throughout and high-speed Wi-Fi. Breakfast is included. **www.innforanight.co.uk**

BOURNEMOUTH Bay View Court ⇅ 🍴 ≋ ♿ £

*35 East Overcliff Drive, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 3AH **Tel** 01202 294449 **Fax** 01202 292883 **Rooms** 70*

An East Cliff location gives lovely panoramic views across Bournemouth Bay. This comfortable family-run hotel serves international cuisine. A large heated indoor pool, spa bath, steam room, snooker, pool, darts and games machines are located in the popular Purbeck suite. There are relaxing lounges and sun terraces. **www.bayviewcourt.co.uk**

BOURNEMOUTH Arlington Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ££

*Exeter Park Rd, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 5BD **Tel** 01202 552879 **Fax** 01202 298317 **Rooms** 28*

Situated in the town centre, the Arlington stands in its own grounds among scented pine trees. The well-equipped rooms are comfortable, and the hotel prides itself on friendly hospitality. The hotel's private gateways lead directly into the Bournemouth flower gardens, which are just a short walk from the beach. **www.arlingtonbournemouth.co.uk**

BOURNEMOUTH Avalon Beach Hotel P 🍴 ▤ ♿ ££

*43 Grand Av, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH6 3SY **Tel** 01202 425370 **Rooms** 12*

Just a few minutes from Southbourne's Blue Flag beach is this small, family-run hotel. The fantastic personal service here includes great family options – children's entertainment, babysitting, self-catering and quality home cooking. There are large coastal gardens and a beach hut for hire. Internet access is also available. **www.avalon-beach-hotel.co.uk**

BOURNEMOUTH Miramar ⇅ 🍴 ♿ ££

*East Overcliff Dr, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 3AL **Tel** 01202 556581 **Fax** 01202 291242 **Rooms** 43*

The Miramar occupies a stunning vantage point, with views to the Isle of Wight and the Purbeck Hills. This attractive Edwardian mansion offers a wide range of rooms and suites. There are two restaurants as well as terraces with lawns sweeping down towards the sea. Guests can use a local gym. **www.miramar-bournemouth.com**

BOURNEMOUTH Urban Beach Hotel P 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ££

*23 Argyll Rd, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH5 1EB **Tel** 01202 301509 **Rooms** 12*

This Victorian seaside hotel has had a makeover to create a youthful, funky boutique hotel in the up-and-coming Boscombe area of Bournemouth. It boasts an award-winning bar and bistro and offers access to a nearby health club and swimming pool. Walking distance from the beach and town. Children welcome. **www.urbanbeachhotel.co.uk**

BRADFORD-ON-AVON Bradford Old Windmill ££

*4 Masons Lane, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1QN **Tel** 01225 866842 **Fax** 01225 866648 **Rooms** 3*

And now for something completely different. Yes, it really is an old and extremely atmospheric stone windmill – and the round room has a circular bed. Evening meals are vegetarian but breakfast offers hearty fare for meat-eaters, vegetarians and vegans alike. Price includes breakfast. **www.bradfordoldwindmill.co.uk**

BRIDPORT The Bull Hotel P 🍴 £££

*34 East St, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3LF **Tel** 01308 422878 **Rooms** 15*

A step away from Bridport's busy market streets is this glamorous hotel. Housed in a former 17th-century coaching inn, the hotel offers vintage-styled rooms, four-poster beds, rolltop baths and swanky cosmetics. The relaxed restaurant serves anything from brunch to canapés. Children welcome. **www.thebullhotel.co.uk**

BRISTOL Future Inn Cabot Circus ⇅ P 🍴 ▤ ♿ £

*Bond St South, Bristol, BS1 3EN **Tel** 0845 094 5588 **Rooms** 149*

A functional, cheap central hotel across the busy road from Cabot Circus shopping centre in the heart of the city. The Chophouse restaurant has live entertainment including jazz. Parking is free and there is a Wi-Fi available. A good choice for business travellers on a budget. **www.futureinns.co.uk/bristol**

BRISTOL Mercure Brigstow ⇅ 🍴 ♿ ££

*5–7 Welsh Back, Bristol, Somerset, BS1 4SP **Tel** 0117 929 1030 **Fax** 0117 9292030 **Rooms** 116*

Occupying a prime city centre position on the banks of the River Avon, the Mercure Brigstow is at the heart of an historic but vigorously modern city. Facilities are first rate, including air conditioning and even a plasma screen in the bathroom. The business centre is well equipped, and guests can use a local health club. **www.mercure.com**

BRISTOL Radisson Blu ⇅ P 🍴 🏋 ▤ ♿ ££

*Broad Quay, Bristol, BS1 4BY **Tel** 01179 349500 **Fax** 01179 175 518 **Rooms** 176*

This central, modern glass-fronted hotel offers bright and functional rooms, a health club that includes Bristol's biggest spa and free high speed Internet access. The hotel's proximity to the waterfront makes it a good choice for dining out. There is also an art-house cinema nearby. **www.radissonblu.co.uk/hotel-bristol**

BRISTOL The Avon Gorge Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ ££

*Sion Hill, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 4LD **Tel** 0117 9738 955 **Fax** 0117 9238 125 **Rooms** 75*

In Georgian Clifton, this well-placed hotel has the city's best view over the gorge and across to Brunel's famous suspension bridge. Rooms are simple but comfortable, and there is a fantastic outdoor patio for dining in summer. Perfect for university visitors or a romantic break. **www.theavongorge.com**

BRISTOL Hotel du Vin

⇅ P 🍴 ▤ ♿ ££££

The Sugar House, Narrow Lewins Mead, Bristol, BS1 2NU ***Tel*** *0117 925 5577* ***Fax*** *0117 910 5408* ***Rooms*** *40*

Bristol's finest hotel is a former sugar house occupying a collection of Grade II listed warehouses dating to the 1700s. The loft suites are sensational, while the classy restaurant is one of the best in town. The hotel is an easy walk to the centre and the waterfront and is good for both business and leisure travellers. **www.hotelduvin.com**

CALNE Lansdowne Strand Hotel

🍴 £

The Strand, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0EH ***Tel*** *01249 812488* ***Fax*** *01249 815323* ***Rooms*** *26*

In the centre of the market town, this 16th-century former coaching inn still retains many period features. Individually decorated rooms vary in size. There are two bars; one offers a wide selection of ales and a cosy fire to sit by. An interesting menu and choice of wines is available in the brasserie-style restaurant. **www.lansdownestrand.co.uk**

CASTLE COMBE The Manor House Hotel & Golf Club

🍴 ♿ ££££

Castle Combe, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 7HR ***Tel*** *01249 782206* ***Fax*** *01249 782159* ***Rooms*** *48*

A secluded valley position on its own golf course makes this a truly idyllic retreat within easy reach of both Bath and the Cotswolds. Accommodation is in a row of individual cottages and dining in the main Jacobean-styled house. The hotel's Bybrook restaurant has excellent cuisine and a Michelin star. **www.exclusivehotels.co.uk**

DORCHESTER Casterbridge

♿ ££

49 High East St, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1HU ***Tel*** *01305 264043* ***Fax*** *01305 260884* ***Rooms*** *14*

Here's a peaceful haven in a busy county town. Dorchester was the Casterbridge in Thomas Hardy's novel, *The Mayor of Casterbridge,* hence the name of this hotel. Ground floor rooms enjoy a patio and have wheelchair access. Four-poster room available. Enjoy breakfast in the dining room or the conservatory. **www.thecasterbridge.co.uk**

DULVERTON Ashwick House

££

Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QD ***Tel*** *01398 323868* ***Rooms*** *8*

Ashwick House is a delightful little Edwardian country estate, on the southeastern edge of Exmoor. Manicured lawns sweep down through the six-acre grounds to water gardens and the River Barle. The suites are baronial. Dinner can be taken on the terrace. Breakfast is included. No children under ten. **www.ashwickhouse.com**

EVERSHOT Summer Lodge

🍴 🏊 🏋 ♿ £££££

Evershot, Dorset, DT2 0JR ***Tel*** *01935 482000* ***Fax*** *01935 482040* ***Rooms*** *24*

Set in the picturesque village of Evershot, this Relais et Châteaux property has a spa as well as a large heated indoor swimming pool. Enjoy croquet, tennis or an alfresco afternoon tea. Often award-winning, the hotel was rated top three in the UK for best hotels with food in the 2010 Condé Nast Traveller. **www.summerlodgehotel.co.uk**

EYPE'S Eype's Mouth Country Hotel

🍴 ££

Eype, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6AL ***Tel*** *01308 423300* ***Fax*** *01308 420033* ***Rooms*** *18*

With dramatic sea views and located just a few minutes walk to the beach, this hotel occupies a coveted position on the heritage coast, with immediate access to the much-lauded coastal path. Family-run, it exudes a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere, ensuring a pleasant and comfortable stay. Includes breakfast. **www.eypesmouthhotel.co.uk**

GILLINGHAM Stock Hill Country House Hotel & Restaurant

🍴 ♿ ££££

Stockhill, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5NR ***Tel*** *01747 823626* ***Fax*** *01747 825628* ***Rooms*** *9*

A beech-lined drive leads to the very definition of peace and seclusion. Stock Hill is one of the country's finest country-house hotels. Chef and patron Peter Hauser and his wife Nita have spent two decades refurbishing to exacting standards. Provides business facilities, and price includes dinner. **www.stockhillhouse.co.uk**

LACOCK At the Sign of the Angel

🍴 ♿ £££

6 Church St, Lacock, Wiltshire, SN15 2LB ***Tel*** *01249 730230* ***Fax*** *01249 730527* ***Rooms*** *10*

If you are looking for character, you've found it. Run by the Levis family since 1953, the hotel has low beams, log fires and squeaky floorboards. Luxuriously furnished bedrooms have oak-panelled walls and antique furniture. There is also a cottage to rent. Includes breakfast. Lacock is now owned by the National Trust. **www.lacock.co.uk**

LONGLEAT The Bath Arms

P 🍴 ♿ £££££

Longleat Estate, Horningsham, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7LY ***Tel*** *01985 844308* ***Fax*** *01985 845187* ***Rooms*** *15*

This unusual, ivy-clad pub offers quirky, boutique-styled rooms with free-standing Victorian baths. Popular with the hunting set, it is also dog- and child-friendly and offers half price rooms during the week. The Lodge, overlooking Longleat House, provides self-contained family accommodation. **www.batharms.co.uk**

LYME REGIS Hotel 1 Lyme

££

1 Pound St, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3HZ ***Tel*** *01297 442499* ***Rooms*** *6*

An upmarket B&B housed in a Grade II listed townhouse. The focus here is on luxury with Osborne & Little wallpaper, Designers Guild fabrics and Molton Brown toiletries. The breakfasts are excellent, and picnics are provided on request. A good base from which to explore the Jurassic Coast and nearby seafood restaurants. Free Wi-Fi. **www.hotel1lyme.com**

LYME REGIS Hotel Alexandra

🍴 ♿ £££

Pound St, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3HZ ***Tel*** *01297 442010* ***Rooms*** *24*

Lauded for its hospitality, comfort and good food, the Alexandra has sloping lawns and magnificent views of the Cobb. All the bedrooms are finely decorated and have private bathrooms. Elegant dining room with first-class menu and wine list. Management can arrange guided fossil hunting. **www.hotelalexandra.co.uk**

MALMESBURY The Old Bell 🍴 ££

Abbey Row, Wiltshire, SN16 0BW ***Tel*** *01666 822344* ***Fax*** *01666 825145* ***Rooms*** *33*

Established in 1220 adjacent to historic Malmesbury Abbey, this is reputed to be Britain's oldest purpose-built hotel. Welcoming rooms and outstanding levels of service amid the ambience of a bygone age. Pretty terrace for outdoor dining in summer. Outstanding wine list. Includes breakfast. **www.oldbellhotel.co.uk**

MALMESBURY The Rectory Hotel P 🍴 ≋ £££

Crudwell, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9EP ***Tel*** *01666 577194* ***Rooms*** *12*

This elegant period retreat in the Cotswolds has had style magazines all in a lather about its modern country cool design. Its three acres of Victorian walled gardens include an outdoor heated sunken swimming pool while the food here is fantastic. A good base from which to explore the area. **www.therectoryhotel.com**

PORLOCK WEIR Andrews on the Weir 🍴 ££

Porlock Weir, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 8PB ***Tel*** *01643 863300* ***Rooms*** *5*

Andrews on the Weir stands on one of Europe's most beautiful stretches of coast, where thick woods sweep down to the sea. Bedrooms are comfortably furnished and the inventively presented food is quite exquisite. It also has a beautiful garden and is close to nearby Exmoor. Breakfast included. Dog friendly. **www.andrewsontheweir.co.uk**

ROOKSBRIDGE Bristol Campervan Hire ££

Acacia Farm, Bristol Rd, Rooksbridge, Bristol, BS26 2TA ***Tel*** *0845 4674147*

Half an hour south of Bristol, this unusual operation offers retro and brand new VW campervans to help you explore the West Country in style. Vans sleep up to four and can be delivered to Bristol Airport or central Bristol on request. Rates from £325 for a 3-day weekend. **www.thebristolcampercompany.co.uk**

SALISBURY St Ann's House 🍴 ♿ ££

32–34 St Ann St, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2DP ***Tel*** *01722 335657* ***Rooms*** *9*

In the heart of Salisbury, this much-recommended Georgian B&B has simple, stylish rooms with chandeliers and sash windows. There are pet-friendly rooms and fantastic private dining available from Andrew Lloyd Webber's former personal chef. Limited parking, but bike storage available. **www.stannshouse.co.uk**

SHEPTON MALLET Charlton House 🍴 🏋 ♿ £££££

Charlton Rd, Somerset, BA4 4PR ***Tel*** *01749 342008* ***Fax*** *01749 346362* ***Rooms*** *25*

Decorated with imagination, flair and a sense of theatre, this country-house hotel is set amid rolling hills just 18 miles (30 km) south of Bath. Relaxation comes easy in an ambience of informal splendour. The outstanding restaurant uses local produce and the spa is special. Includes breakfast. **www.charltonhouse.com**

SOMERSET Lord Poulett Arms P 🍴 ££

Hinton St George, Somerset, TA17 8SE ***Tel*** *01460 73149* ***Rooms*** *4*

A multi-award-winning pub in the heart of Somerset. The traditional rooms boast antique beds, rolltop baths and Roberts radios. A roaring fire greets visitors in the pub downstairs where punters can enjoy cider and real ales. Minimum stay of two nights at weekends. **www.lordpoulettarms.com**

STON EASTON Ston Easton Park 🍴 £££

Ston Easton, nr Bath, Somerset, BA3 4DF ***Tel*** *01761 241631* ***Fax*** *01761 241377* ***Rooms*** *22*

An elegant Palladian mansion sited on a romantic estate offering upscale country life at its best. Wonderfully ornate ceilings, masses of antique furniture and priceless paintings make for a comfortable stay while the cuisine is truly sublime. Facilities include conference and business meeting rooms. Inclusive of breakfast. **www.stoneaston.co.uk**

TAUNTON The Mount Somerset ⇅ 🍴 ♿ ££££

Lower Henlade, Somerset, TA3 5NB ***Tel*** *01823 442500* ***Fax*** *01823 442900* ***Rooms*** *11*

Cradled by the Quantock and Blackdown Hills, the Regency-styled Mount is noted for the elegance and warmth of its greeting. Log fires, abundant scatter cushions and a superb sweeping staircase reek of the good life. Just the place for a calm, unhurried stay. Includes breakfast. **www.mountsomersethotel.co.uk**

WAREHAM The Priory 🍴 £££££

Church Green, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4ND ***Tel*** *01929 551666* ***Fax*** *01929 554519* ***Rooms*** *18*

Landscaped gardens fronting the River Frome, it offers fine views of the Purbeck Hills. Sumptuous yet relaxed in style, this 16th-century masterpiece has moorings for those arriving by boat. Furnished with antiques, all rooms are en suite, and you may stay in the main house or the hotel's houseboats. Includes breakfast. **www.theprioryhotel.co.uk**

WELLINGTON Bindon Country House 🍴 ≋ ♿ £££

Langford, Langford Budville, Somerset, TA21 0RU ***Tel*** *01823 400070* ***Fax*** *01823 400071* ***Rooms*** *12*

Extravagantly decorated bedrooms and great food draw people back to this unusually styled and historic Somerset mansion with its extensive gardens, swimming pool, croquet lawn and bicycles. Opt for a four-poster bedroom. Exmoor is within striking distance. Includes breakfast. **www.bindon.com**

WELLS The Crown At Wells 🍴 ££

Market Place, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2RP ***Tel*** *01749 673457* ***Fax*** *01749 679792* ***Rooms*** *15*

Set in the bustling market place at the centre of one of England's smallest cities, this attractive Grade II listed building is overlooked by the cathedral and the Bishops Palace, with its moat. All the bedrooms are comfortably furnished with en suite facilities, and Anton's Bistrot is well known for its excellent food. **www.crownatwells.co.uk**

WEYMOUTH Seaham £

3 Waterloo Place, Dorset, DT4 7NU ***Tel*** *01305 782010* ***Rooms*** *5*

A Grade II listed guesthouse, the Seaham dates back to the 19th century and is located close to the town centre and picturesque harbour. The bedrooms are simply decorated and have en suite facilities. Breakfast is included. Children are not welcome. **www.theseahamweymouth.co.uk**

WOOKEY HOLE Miller's at Glencot House 🍴 ££££

Glencot Lane, Wookey Hole, Somerset, BA5 1BH ***Tel*** *01749 677160* ***Fax*** *01749 670210* ***Rooms*** *15*

Glencot House is a Jacobean inspired late-Victorian mansion set in 18 acres of gardens and parkland, facing the river. It also has its own cricket pitch. All the rooms are elegantly furnished and have four-poster beds. Also has an indoor plunge pool, sauna and a library. Includes breakfast. **www.relaxatglencothouse.co.uk**

WOOTTON BASSETT School House Hotel and Restaurant 🍴 ♿ £

Hook St, Hook, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN4 8EF ***Tel*** *01793 851198* ***Fax*** *01793 849481* ***Rooms*** *11*

Close to Swindon and at the gateway to the Cotswolds, this transformed Victorian school building is just minutes from Junction 16 on the M4. Car hire, station and airport transfers can be arranged. The restaurant has a Victorian beamed ceiling. Suitable for business travellers as well. Includes breakfast. **www.schoolhotel.com**

DEVON AND CORNWALL

BABBACOMBE BEACH The Cary Arms P 🍴 ♿ ££££

Babbacombe Beach, South Devon, TQ1 3LX ***Tel*** *01803 327110* ***Rooms*** *8*

This highly rated inn on the beach between Exeter and Torquay offers chic rooms that open onto terraces. One-, two- and four-bedroomed cottages are also available. The bar serves gastropub food under beamed ceilings, while the spa offers an array of treatments. Dogs welcome. **www.caryarms.co.uk**

BARNSTAPLE Broomhill Art Hotel P 🍴 ♿ ££

Muddiford, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 4EX ***Tel*** *01271 850262* ***Rooms*** *6*

Surrounded by a modern sculpture park, this quirky hotel is a short drive from the north Devon beaches and is ideally located for woodland walks. The comfortable rooms have art on the walls, and the restaurant serves Spanish specials and uses local organic produce. Jazz nights and dining packages also available. **www.broomhillart.co.uk**

BIGBURY-ON-SEA Burgh Island ⇅ 🍴 ≈ 🏋 £££££

Burgh Island, Bigbury-On-Sea, South Devon, TQ7 4BG ***Tel*** *01548 810514* ***Fax*** *01548 810243* ***Rooms*** *25*

This Art Deco treasure set 200 m (656 ft) off the South Devon coast is where Agatha Christie did her famous disappearing act. Rooms are individually decorated with all the modern facilities. Call for the elevated four-wheel drive or stroll by the sea. Guests can swim in a natural rock pool. Inclusive of breakfast and dinner. **www.burghisland.com**

BOSCASTLE The Old Rectory ££

St Juliot, Boscastle, Cornwall, PL35 OBT ***Tel & Fax*** *01840 250225* ***Rooms*** *4*

Beautiful gardens surround the house where Thomas Hardy fell in love with Emma Lavinia Gifford, leading to some of his best poetry. A family home that has been renovated and decorated beautifully in period style. The breakfast is all-inclusive in this B&B close to the coast and the Eden Project. **www.stjuliot.com**

BUDE Elements P 🍴 🏋 ££

Marine Drive, Widemouth Bay, Bude, North Cornwall, EX23 0LZ ***Tel*** *01288 352386* ***Rooms*** *11*

Between Bude and Widemouth Bay, this clifftop hotel boasts great views. The simple, comfortable rooms are styled in white and navy blue with wooden floors, while facilities include a bistro, bar, gym and sauna. There are panoramic views of the sea from the bistro. Surf coaching, golf, sailing, cycling and more on offer. **www.elements-life.co.uk**

CHAGFORD Three Crowns Hotel 🍴 ££

High St, Chagford, Devon, TQ13 8AJ ***Tel*** *01647 433444* ***Fax*** *01647 433117* ***Rooms*** *18*

This 13th-century stone-built inn evokes a long history with its mullion windows, massive oak beams, great open fireplace and four-poster rooms. It is at the heart of Dartmoor National Park and conveniently located close to the Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan. Breakfast is included. **www.chagford-accom.co.uk**

CHAGFORD Gidleigh Park 🍴 ♿ £££££

Gidleigh, Chagford, Devon, TQ13 8HH ***Tel*** *01647 432367* ***Fax*** *01647 432574* ***Rooms*** *24*

Gidleigh Park has long been established as one of the UK's finest country-house hotels. Family-owned and in the heart of Dartmoor, it has fabulous gardens, tennis and croquet courts, a bowling green and a golf course. The main event is dinner: chef Michael Caines MBE has won two Michelin stars for his work here. **www.gidleigh.com**

CREDITON The Lamb Inn P 🍴 ££

The Square, Sandford, Crediton, Devon, EX17 4LW ***Tel*** *01363 773676* ***Rooms*** *6*

The luxury spacious rooms, unexpected above a village pub, have solar-powered underfloor heating, orthopaedic beds and power showers. There is also a cinema and conference rooms. The pub is a 16th-century coaching inn and serves food to order seven days a week. **www.lambinnsandford.co.uk**

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DARTMOOR The Cherrybrook P 🍴 £

Two Bridges, Dartmoor, Devon, PL20 6SP ***Tel*** *01822 880260* ***Rooms*** *7*

A remote, 200-year-old farmhouse, in the heart of Dartmoor National Park, houses this B&B. Rooms are comfortable and have views of the moor. Facilities include free Wi-Fi, flat screen TVs and DVD players, plus a bar and restaurant. Drying facilities are available for walkers and cyclists. Dogs are welcome. **www.thecherrybrook.co.uk**

EXETER Innkeeper's Lodge Exeter East 🍴 ♿ ££

Clyst St George, Exeter, Devon, EX3 OQJ ***Tel*** *01392 876121* ***Fax*** *01392 876904* ***Rooms*** *21*

A fast-growing nationwide chain of modern budget hotels, Innkeeper's Lodge choose their sites well. This one is located just off the M5, making it a suitable jumping off point for forays into the deepest West Country. Deals include two nights for the price of one, while Continental breakfast is complimentary. **www.innkeeperslodge.com**

EXETER Barcelona ⇅ 🍴 £££

Magdalen St, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4HY ***Tel*** *01392 281000* ***Fax*** *01392 281001* ***Rooms*** *46*

This brilliantly converted former eye hospital gives the wink to inspired 1950s style with all the convenience of a modern hotel. The rooms are stylishly furnished with comforts such as satellite TV, video players and Internet. It has an award-winning cocktail bar and Café Paradiso prepares Mediterranean cuisine. **www.hotelbarcelonaexeter.com**

FALMOUTH Budock Vean Hotel On The River ⇅ 🍴 ≋ ♿ £££

Helford Passage, Mawnan Smith, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 5LG ***Tel*** *01326 250288* ***Fax*** *01326 250892* ***Rooms*** *57*

This formal country hotel is set in 65 acres of grounds that lead down to the Helford River. The bedrooms have all the latest facilities, and some have fine views of the gardens and the golf course. They also have a swimming pool, health spa, two tennis courts and a fine restaurant, and they offer boat trips. Includes breakfast and dinner. **www.budockvean.co.uk**

FOWEY The Old Quay House P 🍴 ££££

28 Fore St, Fowey, Cornwall, PL23 1AQ ***Tel*** *01726 833302* ***Fax*** *01726 833668* ***Rooms*** *11*

The individually styled rooms at this waterside hotel offer an experience of luxurious indulgence, with natural fabrics, warm colours and splendid views of the surrounding area. The Old Quay House blends 150 years of history with boutique hotel style and boasts an award-winning restaurant run by chef Ben Bass. **www.theoldquayhouse.com**

ILFRACOMBE Hamptons Hotel P ££

Excelsior Villas, Torrs Park, Ilfracombe, Devon, EX34 8AZ ***Tel*** *01271 864246* ***Rooms*** *7*

This family-run B&B on the north Devon coast overlooks Ilfracombe and has great sea views. The chic rooms have luxury bedding, designer toiletries and mod cons such as free Wi-Fi and DVD players. Well placed for beaches, surfing, golf and the Southwest Coastal Path. The owners also run interior design courses. **www.thehamptonshotel.com**

ISLES OF SCILLY Hell Bay 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ £££

Bryher, Isles of Scilly, TR23 OPR ***Tel*** *01720 422947* ***Fax*** *01720 423004* ***Rooms*** *25*

New England and the Caribbean meet Cornwall's offshore islands. Lloyd Loom furnishing and Malabar fabrics are set against cool ocean blues and greens. Robert and Lucy Dorrien-Smith have filled this secluded haven of tranquility with the works of renowned artists, including Barbara Hepworth. Breakfast and dinner inclusive. **www.hellbay.co.uk**

ISLES OF SCILLY Star Castle Hotel 🍴 ≋ ♿ £££

St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0JA ***Tel*** *01720 422317* ***Fax*** *01720 422343* ***Rooms*** *38*

A historic, star-shaped castle, dating back to the reign of Elizabeth I, is the setting for this half-board hotel. The refurbished interior has white walls; bright, comfortable rooms; two restaurants and a bar in what was originally the dungeon. Transport from the mainland can be arranged. **www.star-castle.co.uk**

LANDEWEDNACK Landewednack House 🍴 ≋ £££

Church Cove, Landewednack, The Lizard, Cornwall, TR12 7PQ ***Tel*** *01326 290909* ***Fax*** *01326 290192* ***Rooms*** *5*

This former rectory is today a quintessential country-house B&B. There is a secluded two-acre walled garden with sea views and a heated swimming pool to keep you on-site, though the surrounding countryside is delightful. There is also a self-contained two-bedroom annexe. Full breakfast is included in the price. **www.landewednackhouse.com**

LUNDY ISLAND Landmark Trust ££

Lundy Shore Office, The Quay, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2LY ***Tel*** *01271 863636* ***Rooms*** *17*

The 17 historic cottages on Lundy ("Puffin") Island, off the coast of Devon, are reached from Ilfracombe and Bideford and can be booked through the Landmark Trust. Lundy Island offers outstanding natural beauty and is small enough to walk round in an afternoon. All accommodation is self catering. **www.landmarktrust.org.uk**

LYNMOUTH The Rising Sun 🍴 £££

Harbourside, Lynmouth, Devon, EX35 6EG ***Tel*** *01598 753223* ***Fax*** *01598 753480* ***Rooms*** *14*

Percy Bysshe Shelley honeymooned in this 14th-century thatched smugglers inn. It overlooks Lynmouth's picturesque harbour and the highest hogback cliffs in England. Oak panelling, wonky ceilings, beachstone walls and uneven floorboards – it's atmosphere all the way, with well-appointed rooms. **www.risingsunlynmouth.co.uk**

MAWGAN PORTH Bedruthan Steps ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ ££££

Mawgan Porth, Cornwall, TR8 4BU ***Tel*** *01637 860555* ***Rooms*** *101*

A family-friendly hotel with indoor and outdoor playground areas, children's clubs and a surf shack. The Ocean Spa is an ideal place to wind down while the safe, sandy beach just outside is great for children. Other facilities include a restaurant, bar, Internet access and childminding services. **www.bedruthan.com**

MAWGAN PORTH The Scarlet ££££

Tredragon Rd, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall, TR8 4DQ ***Tel*** *01637 861800* ***Fax*** *01637 861801* ***Rooms*** *37*

Seriously stylish, this five-star eco-friendly hotel has excellent facilities including a superb restaurant with floor-to-ceiling windows, an Ayurvedic spa, indoor and outdoor pools and sun decks and terraces. All rooms have beach views, and there are plenty of activities from knitting classes to guided wild swimming. Adults only. **www.scarlethotel.co.uk**

MEMBURY Lea Hill ££

Membury, Axminster, Devon, EX13 7AQ ***Tel*** *01404 881881* ***Rooms*** *2*

Superb walks along the Southwest Coastal Path, now a World Heritage Site, are easily accessible from this group of cottages and apartments. Converted from an old farmhouse and its barns, Lea Hill offers fully furnished self-catering accommodation set in lovely gardens. Dogs welcome. **www.leahill.co.uk**

MORTEHOE Lundy House Hotel £

Chapel Hill, Mortehoe, North Devon, EX34 7DZ ***Tel*** *01271 870372* ***Fax*** *01271 871001* ***Rooms*** *9*

Wet suits and surfboards can be rented at nearby Woolacombe Beach or you can ramble over Exmoor. You might, though, prefer to simply relax while admiring the view over to the romantic offshore Lundy Island and watch the sunset before retiring to contemporary four-poster luxury. Closed Oct–Mar. **www.lundyhousehotel.co.uk**

MOUSEHOLE Old Coast Guard Hotel £££

The Parade, Mousehole, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 6PR ***Tel*** *01736 731222* ***Fax*** *01736 731720* ***Rooms*** *14*

Razed in 1595 by raiders from the Spanish Armada, tiny Mousehole has survived as a classic Cornish fishing village. As the name implies, this stylish hotel with fluffy towels and crisp white linen, overlooks the local maritime scene. Most rooms have sea views. Breakfast included. **www.oldcoastguardhotel.co.uk**

MULLION The Polurrian Hotel £££

Polurrian Hotel, Mullion, South Cornwall, TR12 7EN ***Tel*** *01326 240421* ***Fax*** *01326 240083* ***Rooms*** *39*

Excellent service is still a hallmark here, but what guests always talk about most is the stunning cliff-top location, set in beautiful landscaped gardens and with glorious views across to St Michael's Mount. All rooms are en suite and most have sea views. Includes breakfast, dinner and access to the spa. **www.polurrianhotel.com**

NEWQUAY Sands Resort ££

Watergate Rd, Porth, Newquay, Cornwall, TR7 3LX ***Tel*** *01637 872864* ***Fax*** *01637 876365* ***Rooms*** *88*

Spacious rooms with separate sleeping space for children await at this North Cornwall family favourite. Close to the golden sand beaches and surf, this full-on holiday resort features the Ocean Breeze Spa's relaxing therapies plus four age-banded children's clubs. Good-value rates include full breakfast. **www.sandsresort.co.uk**

NEWQUAY The Headland Hotel £££

Fistral Beach, Newquay, Cornwall, TR7 1EW ***Tel*** *01637 872211* ***Fax*** *01637 872212* ***Rooms*** *96*

High Victorian Gothic architecture dominating the cliff above one of Newquay's finest beaches gives this four-star hotel an imposing setting. Inside it is a friendly, family-orientated place and they also run a nearby holiday park. The rooms are comfortably furnished, and many have sea views. Full breakfast is standard. **www.headlandhotel.co.uk**

NEWQUAY Watergate Bay Hotel £££

On the beach, Watergate Bay, Cornwall, TR8 4AA ***Tel*** *01637 860543* ***Fax*** *01637 860333* ***Rooms*** *60*

A trendy hotel with a chic, contemporary interior, the Watergate caters for both a young crowd and families. Rooms are well-equipped with iPod docks and Wi-Fi; the family suites sleep up to six. Watersports enthusiasts will welcome the Extreme Academy, while foodies can visit Jamie Oliver's Fifteen, both nearby (*see p628*). **www.watergatebay.co.uk**

OKEHAMPTON Lewtrenchard Manor ££££

Lewdown, nr Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4PN ***Tel*** *01566 783222* ***Fax*** *01566 783332* ***Rooms*** *14*

Barely touched by time, this Jacobean delight is built on the site of an even earlier manor and is now a country-house retreat. It is famed for its heavenly 17th-century gardens and gourmet delights. The rooms are oak-panelled and decorated with rich fabrics and antiques. Full breakfast is inclusive. **www.lewtrenchard.co.uk**

OTTERY ST MARY Tumbling Weir ££

Canaan Way, Ottery St Mary, nr Exeter, Devon, EX11 1AQ ***Tel*** *01404 812752* ***Fax*** *01404 812752* ***Rooms*** *10*

A thatched hotel set in half-an-acre of beautiful gardens beside a millstream. Conveniently located close to the M5, this gem is a short drive from historic Exeter and the coast. Comfortable beds and en-suite bathrooms, while the restaurant creates wonderful dishes from local produce. **www.tumblingweir-hotel.co.uk**

PADSTOW The Seafood Restaurant £££

Riverside, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8BY ***Tel*** *01841 532700* ***Fax*** *01841 532942* ***Rooms*** *16*

Described as "a restaurant-with-rooms" rather than a hotel, this central gem is the perfect showcase for Rick Stein's renowned fish cookery. Rooms are simple and stylish while romantics will enjoy watching the coming and going of the fishing fleet. Breakfast is included. **www.rickstein.com**

PADSTOW St Petroc's Hotel ££££

New St, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8EA ***Tel*** *01841 532700* ***Rooms*** *10*

Part of seafood chef Rick Stein's empire, this classy, modern hotel sits on a hill overlooking the seaside town of Padstow. The hotel has a fantastic fish restaurant and a courtyard garden for outdoor dining during summer. There is a minimum stay of two nights at weekends, and the price includes breakfast. Dogs welcome. **www.rickstein.com**

Key to Price Guide *see p556* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

PENZANCE Summer House

🍴 £££

Cornwall Terrace, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 4HL ***Tel*** *01736 363744* ***Fax*** *01736 360959* ***Rooms*** *5*

This charming Garde II listed Regency house has been converted into a delightfully intimate hotel and lies very close to the sea. Tropical walled garden, fresh-cut flowers, polished wooden floors and inventive Mediterranean inspired cuisine await. Breakfast is inclusive; restaurant open weekends only. Closed Nov–Mar. **www.summerhouse-cornwall.com**

PLYMOUTH Novotel

⇅ 🍴 ≋ ♿ £

Plymouth Road, Marsh Mills, Plymouth, Devon, PL6 8NH ***Tel*** *01752 221422* ***Fax*** *01752 223922* ***Rooms*** *100*

Marsh Mills is the gateway into Plymouth, with all the delights of Devon and Cornwall within easy reach. Each of the modern rooms features a large double and a single bed and up to two under 16s stay free on a B&B basis when sharing their parents' room. Also has a swimming pool and private parking space. **www.novotel.com**

ROCK St Enodoc

🍴 ≋ ££££

Rock, nr Wadebridge, Cornwall, PL27 6LA ***Tel*** *01208 863394* ***Fax*** *01208 863970* ***Rooms*** *20*

A short drive from the foodie mecca of Padstow, the St Enodoc hotel has a bright, comfortable feel, with original paintings adding wit and colour. Sixteen double rooms and four family suites overlook the Camel Estuary. The hotel is well located for miles of National Trust cliff walking paths. Breakfast included. **www.enodoc-hotel.co.uk**

ST BLAZEY Nanscawen Manor

≋ ££

Prideaux Rd, Luxulyan Valley, St Blazey, Cornwall, PL24 2SR ***Tel*** *01726 814488* ***Rooms*** *4*

Don't be misled by the valley address – this is a hilltop-sited gem with lawns sweeping down to breathtaking views – and you can enjoy these from the sizeable outdoor pool or the hot tubs. The owner adds flair and a gracious welcome to a charming building with 14th-century roots. Breakfast is inclusive. **www.nanscawen.com**

ST HILARY Ennys

≋ ££

Trewhella Lane, St Hilary, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 9BZ ***Tel*** *01736 740262* ***Fax*** *01736 740055* ***Rooms*** *5*

An idyllic country hideaway whose private fields stretch down to the delightful River Hayle. Sheltered formal gardens frame a large heated swimming pool and tennis courts. The rooms are comfortably furnished. Ideal for Lands End, St Michael's Mount, the Eden Project and the Lizard peninsula. Rates include an outstanding breakfast. **www.ennys.co.uk**

ST IVES The Garrack Hotel

🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ £££

Burthallam Lane, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 3AA ***Tel*** *01736 796199* ***Fax*** *01736 798955* ***Rooms*** *18*

Unusually for the busy little artists' haunt of St Ives, the Garrack has its own on-site car parking, as well as delightfully themed subtropical gardens. All rooms have private bathrooms and TV while some have jacuzzi or spa baths. Dine on seafood, meat and vegetarian specialities. Includes breakfast. Dogs welcome. **www.garrack.com**

ST IVES The Gunard's Head

P 🍴 £££

Near Zennor, Treen, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 3DE ***Tel*** *01736 796928* ***Rooms*** *7*

A much-lauded, handsome inn set between the coast road and stonewall-crossed countryside. This restaurant with rooms provides the perfect base from which to explore St Ives. The excellent restaurant uses fresh ingredients and serves local beer and the accommodation is comfortable. **www.gunardshead.co.uk**

ST MAWES Rising Sun

🍴 £££

The Square, St Mawes, Truro, Cornwall, TR2 5DJ ***Tel*** *01326 270233* ***Fax*** *01326 270198* ***Rooms*** *8*

Rooms are bright and cheery in this hotel with all the modern comforts. The property fronts directly on to St Mawes' picturesque little harbour, with views of the Roseland Peninsula. Award-winning chef, Ian Rogers, presides over the Rising Sun's restaurant. Well placed for yachting, sailing and walking. **www.risingsunstmawes.com**

ST MAWES Hotel Tresanton

🍴 ££££

St Mawes, Truro, Cornwall, TR2 5DR ***Tel*** *01326 270055* ***Fax*** *01326 270053* ***Rooms*** *29*

St Anthony's Lighthouse is a beacon for one of Cornwall's best-loved hotels, formerly a club for yachtsmen. Olga Polizzi has created a casually elegant venue ideal for weddings and holidays alike. Decorated with local Cornish art and antiques, it has a cinema, bar, fish restaurant and therapy room. Includes breakfast and dinner. **www.tresanton.com**

TAVISTOCK The Bedford

🍴 £££

1 Plymouth Road, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 8BB ***Tel*** *01822 892347* ***Fax*** *01822 892347* ***Rooms*** *30*

Formerly a Benedictine Abbey, this elegant hotel was once the residence of the Dukes of Bedford. The rooms are charming and tastefully furnished to a high standard. Situated in the historic market town of Tavistock, the Bedford makes an excellent base for exploring Dartmoor. Breakfast and dinner included. **www.bedford-hotel.co.uk**

TAVISTOCK The Horn of Plenty

P 🍴 ♿ £££

Gulworthy, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 8JD ***Tel*** *01822 832528* ***Rooms*** *10*

Set in two hectares (five acres) of spectacular gardens and with breathtaking views, this elegant country house hotel has a unique character and charm. Rooms offer a combination of elegance and classic sophistication and the hotel boasts an award-winning restaurant under executive chef Peter Gorton. **www.thehornofplenty.co.uk**

TEIGNMOUTH Thomas Luny House

££

Teign St, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8EG ***Tel*** *01626 772976* ***Rooms*** *4*

Once frequented by the captains of Nelson's navy, this Georgian house is furnished with antiques and collectibles. Tea and home-made cake are offered to afternoon arrivals, which may be enjoyed in the secluded garden. All rooms are individually designed, and expect faultless hospitality. Includes breakfast. **www.thomas-luny-house.co.uk**

TORQUAY Palace Hotel £££

Babbacombe Rd, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 3TG ***Tel*** *01803 200200* ***Fax*** *01803 299899* ***Rooms*** *141*

Overlooking St Anstey's Cove and featuring a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts and indoor and outdoor swimming pools, this uncrowned queen of the English Riviera stands in 26 acres of glorious gardens. Well placed for visiting Dartmoor. Additionals include conference facilities and tennis tutorials. **www.palacetorquay.co.uk**

WIDEGATE Coombe Farm £

Widegates, Looe, Cornwall, PL13 1QN ***Tel*** *01503 240223* ***Rooms*** *3*

Spacious rooms offer fine views of the wooded valley and the sea, and horse riding and sea and lake fishing are among other attractions. The rooms are warmly decorated and in self-contained cottages. Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor and the Cornish Coastal Path are all at hand. Breakfast included. **www.coombefarmhotel.co.uk**

WOOLLACOMBE Rocks Hotel P £

Beach Rd, Woollacombe, Devon, EX34 7BT ***Tel*** *01271 870361* ***Rooms*** *10*

Located 300 yards from the beach, this budget B&B offers small, modern rooms with en suite bathrooms. There are also two family rooms that sleep one and two children, respectively. Wi-Fi is available, and there are handy surfer facilities including outdoor showers and surfboard storage. Full English breakfast is included. **www.therockshotel.co.uk**

THE HEART OF ENGLAND

BIBURY The Swan £££

Bibury, Gloucestershire, GL7 5NW ***Tel*** *01285 740695* ***Fax*** *01285 740473* ***Rooms*** *22*

A picturesque hotel set in a converted 17th-century coaching inn in the Cotswolds. The rooms are luxurious with views over the peaceful River Coln and expansive hotel gardens. Some rooms have en suite jacuzzis. The Swan also boasts an award-winning restaurant. **www.swanhotel.co.uk**

BIRMINGHAM Hotel du Vin & Bistro £££

Church St, Birmingham, B3 2NR ***Tel*** *0121 200 0600* ***Fax*** *0121 236 0889* ***Rooms*** *66*

Large, elegant hotel in a converted Victorian building in the city's trendy Jewellery Quarter. Many of the building's original features, including the sweeping staircase and granite pillars, have been retained. Features a well-reputed bistro restaurant and the popular Cellar Bar. Also has a beauty spa. **www.hotelduvin.com**

BIRMINGHAM Malmaison £££

1 Wharfside St, Birmingham, B1 1RD ***Tel*** *0121 246 5000* ***Fax*** *0121 246 5002* ***Rooms*** *189*

A stylish, award-winning hotel in a former 1960s Royal Mail sorting office, Malmaison sits amid designer stores and within walking distance of the city centre. The rooms are furnished in chic chocolate and cream, with moody lighting and CD libraries. Also has a spa with sauna, Jacuzzi and choice of treatments. **www.malmaison-birmingham.com**

BLACKWELL Blackwell Grange ££

Blackwell, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, CV36 4PF ***Tel*** *01608 682357* ***Fax*** *01608 682856* ***Rooms*** *3*

Small B&B in a 17th-century farmhouse, complete with low-beamed ceilings and stone-flagged floors, to the north of the Cotswolds. Offers two self-catering cottages; one for up to six persons and the other for two. A great spot for walking. Picnics are provided on request. Also functions as a working farm. **www.blackwellgrange.co.uk**

BLOCKLEY The Crown Inn £

High St, Blockley, Moreton-In-Marsh, Gloucestershire, GL56 9EX ***Tel*** *01386 700245* ***Fax*** *01386 700247* ***Rooms*** *24*

A converted 14th-century coaching inn with wood-beamed ceilings, whitewashed walls and log fires. Has individually furnished rooms with fireplaces and four-poster beds. The restaurant boasts an impressive cellar and an extensive choice of Real Ales. The nearby countryside is great for walking and horse riding. **www.crowninnblockley.com**

BROAD CAMPDEN Malt House £££

Broad Campden, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6UU ***Tel*** *01386 840295* ***Fax*** *01386 841334* ***Rooms*** *7*

Elegant and well-located B&B, which prides itself on its personal touch. Each of the six bedrooms (and one garden suite) is individually decorated with antique furnishings, four-poster beds, fine china and freshly cut flowers from its carefully-tended gardens. Offers a large breakfast with home-made bread and jams. **www.malt-house.co.uk**

BUCKLAND Buckland Manor £££££

Buckland, Gloucestershire, WR12 7LY ***Tel*** *01386 852626* ***Fax*** *01386 853557* ***Rooms*** *13*

This 13th-century country-house hotel, near Broadway, features antiques-filled rooms and fine views over the grounds. Hosts croquet lawns, tennis courts and a private putting green. The award-winning restaurant serves seasonal fruit, vegetables and herbs from the nearby Vale of Evesham. **www.bucklandmanor.co.uk**

CHELTENHAM Hotel Kandinsky £££

Bayshill Rd, Montpellier, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3AS ***Tel*** *01242 527788* ***Rooms*** *60*

An eclectic hotel with contrasting Regency exterior, located in the heart of Cheltenham. The rooms are large and luxurious. Features a sunlit conservatory and a large lounge for guests, and has a contract with a local gym, just ten minutes away. Also has a Mediterranean restaurant. **www.hotelkandinsky.com**

CHELTENHAM Hotel du Vin P 🍴 ≣ ♿ £££

Parabola Rd, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3AQ ***Tel*** *01242 588450* ***Fax*** *01242 588455* ***Rooms*** *49*

This luxury Regency hotel is located in leafy Montpellier in the spa town of Cheltenham. It offers superb dining and bar facilities, sumptuous rooms and a superlative honeymoon suite. There is also a spa in the basement. The hotel is a favourite of visiting luminaries to the city's many upmarket festivals. **www.hotelduvin.com**

CHELTENHAM Hotel on the Park ⊘ P 🍴 ££££

38 Evesham Rd, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 2AH ***Tel*** *01242 511526* ***Rooms*** *12*

In the heart of the Cotswolds and close to Cheltenham's town centre, the luxurious Hotel on the Park combines exceptional standards of hotel keeping with friendly hospitality. Peace, elegance and refinement with full business facilities and an award-winning restaurant. **www.hotelonthepark.com**

CHIPPING CAMPDEN Nineveh Farm £

Campden Rd, Mickleton, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6PS ***Tel*** *01386 438923* ***Rooms*** *5*

Cosy and welcoming B&B in a 200-year-old Cotswold farmhouse, within easy reach of Chipping Campden and Stratford-upon-Avon. Rooms are furnished with oak beams, flagstone floors and log fires, with views over the vast grounds. Provides ample parking space, and offers discounts for longer stays. **www.ninevehfarm.co.uk**

CHIPPING CAMPDEN Badgers Hall ££

High St, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6HB ***Tel*** *01386 840839* ***Rooms*** *3*

This B&B and traditional English tearoom offers a friendly and comfortable stay in the beautiful old Cotswolds market town of Chipping Campden. The bedrooms are large, with antique pine furnishings and wood-beamed ceilings. Serves plentiful breakfasts and authentic cream teas – everything is home-made on the premises. **www.badgershall.com**

CHIPPING CAMPDEN Cotswold House 🍴 ♿ £££££

The Square, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6AN ***Tel*** *01386 840330* ***Fax*** *01386 840310* ***Rooms*** *28*

Located in a Regency town house, this elegant property offers a luxurious, relaxing break in some of England's most beautiful countryside. The deluxe rooms have fireplaces, hot tubs, king-sized beds and state-of-the-art facilities. **www.cotswoldhouse.com**

COLWALL Colwall Park Hotel 🍴 £££

Colwall, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6QG ***Tel*** *01684 540000* ***Fax*** *01684 540847* ***Rooms*** *22*

The Colwall Park Hotel offers comfortable, individually decorated rooms, some with views over the beautiful Malvern Hills. Guests can relax in the cosy lounge with a roaring fire in winter and deep armchairs, or head to the library or the games room. Modern British dishes are served in the restaurant. Wi-Fi access. **www.colwall.co.uk**

EVESHAM Evesham Hotel 🍴 ≋ ♿ £££

Coopers Lane, off Waterside, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 1DA ***Tel*** *01386 765443* ***Rooms*** *40*

Family-friendly and well-priced hotel, often ranked among the top ten places to stay in Britain. The rooms provide all modern amenities, but are decorated to befit the building's Georgian heritage; some rooms offer great views of the grounds. Has an indoor swimming pool. **www.eveshamhotel.com**

GLEWSTONE Glewstone Court 🍴 £££

Near Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6AW ***Tel*** *01989 770367* ***Fax*** *01989 770282* ***Rooms*** *8*

Ideally located in the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This family-run hotel is well placed for walking, horse riding, canoeing and other outdoor activities. Rooms are comfortably furnished to a high standard. The restaurant has open log fires and serves fresh seasonal fare. **www.glewstonecourt.com**

HEREFORD Pilgrim Hotel 🍴 ♿ ££

Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR2 8HJ ***Tel*** *01981 540742* ***Fax*** *01981 540620* ***Rooms*** *20*

Delightful three-star, country-house hotel, set amid a vast parkland in the Wye Valley just outside Hereford. The rooms are cosy, with views over the rolling mountains into Wales. Guests can enjoy scenic walks through the Dore Valley. The Pilgrim also boasts a restaurant that uses local produce. **www.pilgrimhotel.co.uk**

HEREFORD The Priory 🍴 ££

Stretton Sugwas, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 7AR ***Tel*** *01432 760264* ***Fax*** *01432 761809* ***Rooms*** *8*

Small, but grand, family-run hotel in an 18th-century building, on the outskirts of Hereford. Rooms are large with antique furnishings, including luxurious four-poster beds. The surrounding countryside is stunning and well worth a visit. The restaurant serves local produce (reservations should be made in advance). **www.hotelpriory.co.uk**

HEREFORD Castle House Hotel 🍴 ♿ ££££

Castle St, Hereford ***Tel*** *01432 356321* ***Fax*** *01432 365909* ***Rooms*** *16*

Set in the heart of historic Hereford, Castle House occupies a gracious Georgian town house. Its award-winning restaurant and quiet gardens with views over the old castle moat really make this a special place to stay. The rooms are elegantly furnished with fine antiques and all have modern amenities. **www.castlehse.co.uk**

ILMINGTON Howard Arms 🍴 £££

Lower Green, Ilmington, nr Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, CV36 4LT ***Tel*** *01608 682226* ***Rooms*** *8*

Traditional Cotswolds pub offering B&B accommodation on the village green. The rooms at this hotel have a beamed ceiling and antique, country-style furnishings. Voted "Warwickshire Dining Pub of the Year 2010" for its fresh seasonal produce and an extensive selection of wine and cask ale. **www.howardarms.com**

IRONBRIDGE Library House ££

11 Severn Bank, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7AN ***Tel*** *01952 432299* ***Rooms*** *3*

A distinguished guesthouse, housed in a restored Grade II listed building in the World Heritage Site of Ironbridge Gorge. This hotel sits in a peaceful location among immaculately-tended gardens, and is a short distance from the Telford town centre. Each of the rooms has en suite facilities. **www.libraryhouse.com**

MALVERN Copper Beach House P £

32 Avenue Rd, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3BJ ***Tel*** *01684 565013* ***Rooms*** *7*

Simply gorgeous, this Victorian establishment in the Malvern Hills has picturesque period features and oozes both charm and character. The delightful rooms are comfortable, and there is a beautiful walled garden. Ideally located for walks in the surrounding hills, with stunning views. A host of sights is also well within reach. **www.copperbeechhouse.co.uk**

MORETON IN MARSH Redesdale Arms P 🍴 ♿ ££

High St, Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire, GL56 0AW ***Tel*** *01608 650308* ***Fax*** *01608 651843* ***Rooms*** *24*

Originally an old stable inn, this hotel offers all traditional comforts in impressive surroundings. The executive rooms have four-poster beds and two of the guestrooms are fitted with whirlpool baths. The hotel is set in the heart of the north Cotswolds and is an ideal base for walkers. **www.redesdalearms.com**

NORTON Hundred House 🍴 ££

Bridgnorth Rd (A442), Norton, nr Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 9EE ***Tel*** *01952 580240* ***Fax*** *01952 580260* ***Rooms*** *10*

Each room in this friendly, acclaimed hotel offers something a little bit different: one has a four-poster bed and period furniture; another has a velvet covered swing; and another has patchwork drapes and fragrant bed sheets. The pub serves a weekly changing menu using locally sourced ingredients. **www.hundredhouse.co.uk**

PRESTBURY White House Manor ♿ £££

Prestbury, Cheshire, SK10 4HP ***Tel*** *01625 829376* ***Fax*** *01625 828627* ***Rooms*** *12*

Popular manor house, located within easy reach of Manchester. The rooms are luxurious and individually furnished with antiques, collectibles and rich fabrics. All the rooms offer basic amenities such as central heating and TV, as well as a range of tea, coffee and alcoholic beverages. **www.thewhitehousemanor.co.uk**

SHREWSBURY Albright Hussey Manor Hotel & Restaurant 🍴 ♿ £££

Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 3AF ***Tel*** *01939 290523/290571* ***Fax*** *01939 291143* ***Rooms*** *26*

Converted moated manor house with splendid views over the Shropshire countryside. All the rooms offer en suite facilties, and boast an atmospheric blend of historic oak panelling, open fireplaces, Tudor beams and modern amenities. Six of the rooms feature original four-poster beds, spa baths and antique furnishings. **www.albrighthussey.co.uk**

STAFFORD The Swan 🍴 ♿ ££

46 Greengate St, Stafford, ST16 2JA ***Tel*** *01785 258142* ***Fax*** *01785 223372* ***Rooms*** *31*

The Swan, a former 16th-century coaching inn, benefits from a central town location. Lovingly restored, many of the rooms have original features including stone fireplaces and exposed beams. There are amenities for business and leisure travellers as well as a brasserie and coffee shop. **www.theswanstafford.co.uk**

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Victoria Spa Lodge £

Bishopton Lane, Bishopton, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickwickshire, CV37 9QY ***Tel*** *01789 267985* ***Rooms*** *7*

Built in 1837, this Victorian spa hotel was visited by Queen Victoria, hence its name and the appearance of her coat of arms in the hotel gables. The bedrooms face forward onto the hotel grounds; some overlook Stratford-upon-Avon's canal. Family rooms are also available. Serves a generous breakfast. **www.victoriaspalodge.co.uk**

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Willow Corner ££

Armscote, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 8DE ***Tel*** *01608 682391* ***Rooms*** *3*

Small, luxury B&B in a beautiful, 300-year-old thatched cottage, a short drive from Stratford-upon-Avon. The rates include a full English breakfast with home-made bread and jams, served beside the magnificent inglenook fireplace in the main lounge. **www.willowcorner.co.uk**

TEWKESBURY Corse Lawn House Hotel 🍴 ♿ £££

Corse Lawn, Gloucestershire, GL19 4LZ ***Tel*** *01452 780771* ***Fax*** *01452 780840* ***Rooms*** *19*

On the edge of a quiet village green, this elegant, Grade II listed Queen Anne building has been extended to create a stunning country house hotel. The Corse Lawn is set in 12 acres of beautiful grounds and the atmosphere here is relaxed and the service attentive and unobtrusive. **www.corselawn.com**

TRUMPET Verzon House 🍴 £££

Hereford Rd, Trumpet, Nr Ledbury, HR8 2PZ ***Tel*** *01531 670381* ***Fax*** *01531 670830* ***Rooms*** *8*

The Verzon is a stylish boutique hotel situated 2 miles (3 km) from the historic market town of Ledbury. The Mulbery bar and brasserie offer informal dining. Stunning views of the Malvern Hills can be appreciated from the deck terrace. **info@verzonhouse.com**

WINCHCOMBE Wesley House 🍴 ££

High St, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, GL54 5LJ ***Tel*** *01242 602366* ***Fax*** *01242 609046* ***Rooms*** *5*

Historic, half-timbered restaurant-with-rooms. The rooms overlook the North Cotswolds, and are small, but cosy. The Almsbury room has a private terrace and the best view, and the Preacher's room once gave shelter to the founder of the Methodist Church, John Wesley. **www.wesleyhouse.co.uk**

Key to Price Guide *see p556* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

EAST MIDLANDS

BABWORTH The Barns Country Guesthouse £

Morton Farm, Babworth, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 8HA ***Tel*** *01777 706336* ***Rooms*** *6*

Non-smoking B&B in the heart of Robin Hood Country. Offers peaceful rooms in a converted, 18th-century farmhouse, near the busy market town of Retford. Vine-covered exterior walls, original oak beams and country furniture all add to the rural charm. Serves a hearty breakfast. **www.thebarns.co.uk**

BARNBY MOOR Ye Olde Bell Hotel and Restaurant 🍴 £££

Barnby Moor, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 8QS ***Tel*** *01777 705121* ***Fax*** *01777 860424* ***Rooms*** *48*

Set in expansive, tranquil grounds on the edge of Sherwood Forest, this privately owned converted coaching inn is one of Nottinghamshire's most characterful hotels. The rooms are decorated with oak panelling, log fires and leaded windows, and the restaurant serves award-winning cuisine. **www.yeoldebell-hotel.co.uk**

BASLOW Hotel Cavendish 🍴 ♿ ££££

Baslow, Derbyshire, DE45 1SP ***Tel*** *01246 582311* ***Fax*** *01246 582312* ***Rooms*** *24*

This beautiful property is located on the Chatsworth Estate, at the heart of the Peak District National Park. Most of the furnishings – an elegant blend of antiques and modern art – come from Chatsworth House itself. The hotel is within reach of the spa town of Buxton. **www.cavendish-hotel.net**

BIGGIN-BY-HARTINGDON Biggin Hall 🍴 ££

Biggin-by-Hartington, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 0DH ***Tel*** *01298 84451* ***Rooms*** *20*

A peaceful, 17th-century country-house hotel, in the Peak District National Park. This Grade II listed building is set amid typical Derbyshire landscape, with heather-clad moorlands and deep wooded valleys. Offers spacious rooms, furnished with four-poster beds and open fires, as well as self-contained apartments. **www.bigginhall.co.uk**

BUXTON The Chateau & Wye House Suites P ♿ ££

Corbar Rd, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6RL ***Tel*** *07595 482169* ***Fax*** *01298 213366* ***Rooms*** *18*

The vast woodland setting and magnificent period architecture combine with a range of comfortable, serviced apartments in both the grand old chateau (Corbar Hill House) and the modern Wye House. This is an excellent Peak District base, on the rural outskirts of Buxton, famous for its festivals. **www.wyehouse.com**

GLOSSOP Wind in the Willows 🍴 £££

Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 7PT ***Tel*** *01457 868001* ***Fax*** *01457 853354* ***Rooms*** *12*

Early Victorian country house with great views of the Peak District National Park. Boasts delightful oak-panelled rooms with antique furnishings and modern facilities. The popular restaurant serves traditional English fare in its period dining room. A nine-hole golf course adjoins the hotel. **www.windinthewillows.co.uk**

HOPE Underleigh House ££

Off Edale Rd, Hope, Derbyshire, S33 6RF ***Tel*** *01433 621372* ***Fax*** *01433 621324* ***Rooms*** *5*

This small B&B is located in prime walking area, and offers panoramic views over the surrounding Peak District. Set in a converted cottage and barn, it provides comfortable, spacious rooms, and a generous breakfast in its stone-flagged dining room. The staff is friendly and helpful. **www.underleighhouse.co.uk**

HOUGH ON THE HILL The Brownlow Arms ££

Grantham Rd, Hough on the Hill, Lincolnshire, NG32 2AZ ***Tel*** *01400 250234* ***Fax*** *01400 251993* ***Rooms*** *4*

Truely exceptional accommodation; the four bedrooms are individually and tastefully furnished to a high standard to provide every comfort for guests. Enjoy exploring diverse local attractions and unspoilt countryside before returning to dine at the hotel's excellent restaurant. **www.thebrownlowarms.com**

LANGAR Langar Hall 🍴 £££

Langar, Nottinghamshire, NG13 9HG ***Tel*** *01949 860559* ***Fax*** *01949 861045* ***Rooms*** *12*

This stately country-house hotel is popular for weddings and other celebrations. The elegant rooms are split between the main house and the chalet next to the croquet lawn. The restaurant serves simple English cuisine, including Stilton from Colston Bassett and fruits from the Belvoir fruit farm. **www.langarhall.com**

LOUTH The Priory 🍴 £

149 Eastgate, Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 9AJ ***Tel*** *01507 602930* ***Rooms*** *9*

This Grade II listed building boasts beautiful gardens, a stunning wood-panelled bar, a Gothic function room (generally used for weddings) and a communal lounge for playing cards. The rooms are modern, but in line with the building's original architecture. **www.theprioryhotel.com**

MATLOCK BATH Hodgkinson's Hotel & Restaurant 🍴 ££

150 S Parade, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3NR ***Tel*** *01629 582170* ***Fax*** *01629 584891* ***Rooms*** *8*

This stylish hotel dates back to the Georgian spa era, and is housed in a Grade II listed building. Offers carefully-renovated, luxurious rooms, furnished with original antiques and four-poster beds. The elegant restaurant serves delicious Mediterranean cuisine. **www.hodgkinsons-hotel.co.uk**

NOTTINGHAM Lace Market 🍴 £££

29–31 High Pavement, The Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1HE ***Tel*** *0115 852 3232* ***Rooms*** *42*

This trendy hotel is home to a brasserie, gastropub and a cocktail bar. The luxurious rooms are equipped with modern facilities, and offer great views over St Mary's Church and the Galleries of Justice. Serves a variety of good food and drink, and provides free access to the nearby Virgin Active health club. **www.lacemarkethotel.co.uk**

NOTTINGHAM Restaurant Sat Bains 🍴 £££

Restaurant Sat Bains, Old Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2SA ***Tel*** *0115 986 6566* ***Fax*** *0115 986 0343* ***Rooms*** *8*

Highly regarded and popular restaurant-with-rooms. The rooms feature Molton Brown toiletries, freshly brewed coffee and Egyptian cotton linen. Also boasts a kitchen workshop, and offers a selection of holiday-package deals. This is Nottingham's only Michelin-starred restaurant. **www.restaurantsatbains.net**

OAKHAM Hambleton Hall 🍴 ≋ ££££

Oakham, Rutland, Leicestershire, LE15 8TH ***Tel*** *01572 756991* ***Fax*** *01572 724721* ***Rooms*** *17*

Part of the Relais & Chateaux network of hotels, this sophisticated country-house hotel has a stunning lakeside setting. The spacious rooms are decorated with comfortable furnishings and rich fabrics, and the gourmet restaurant offers a fine wine list. Also has a heated outdoor pool and tennis courts. **www.hambletonhall.com**

STAMFORD George of Stamford 🍴 ♿ £££

71 St Martins, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 2LB, ***Tel*** *01780 750750* ***Fax*** *01780 750701* ***Rooms*** *47*

Historic coaching inn with magnificent oak-panelled walls. The rooms are comfortable and spacious, equipped with en suite facilities and modern amenities. The well-reputed restaurant serves mouthwatering cuisine, which includes traditional English fare. Also has a business centre. **www.georgehotelofstamford.com**

WASHINGBOROUGH Washingborough Hall Hotel P 🍴 ££

Church Hill, Washingborough, Lincoln, LN4 1BE ***Tel*** *01522 790340* ***Fax*** *01522 792936* ***Rooms*** *12*

This grand Georgian manor house, not far from Lincoln, is set in large, well-tended grounds and boasts attractive original features. The tranquil setting is ideal for quiet retreats, and the rooms – most with garden views – are comfortable; two have four-poster beds. The restaurant offers a good British menu. **www.washingboroughhall.com**

LANCASHIRE AND THE LAKES

AMBLESIDE Wateredge Inn P 🍴 ♿ £

Waterhead Bay, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0EP ***Tel*** *01539 432332* ***Fax*** *01539 431878* ***Rooms*** *22*

Delightful inn set in two adjoining 17th-century fishermen's cottages, near Lake Windermere. The colourfully decorated rooms have en suite facilities; many offer great views of the lake. Well-placed for exploring the scenic countryside and other local attractions. Includes breakfast. **www.wateredgeinn.co.uk**

AMBLESIDE Drunken Duck 🍴 £££

Barngates, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0NG ***Tel*** *01539 436347* ***Fax*** *01539 436781* ***Rooms*** *16*

This lively dining-pub-with-rooms has been welcoming travellers for more than 400 years. Wood fires, oak floors and ales brewed on site add to the appeal. Offers stunning views of Lake Windermere. The rooms are stylish; ask for the Garden Room with its open-beamed ceiling. Room rate includes breakfast. Use of nearby spa. **www.drunkenduckinn.co.uk**

ARNSIDE No 43 🍴 ££

The Promenade, Arnside, Cumbria, LA5 0AA ***Tel*** *01524 762 761* ***Rooms*** *6*

No 43 is inundated with accolades. Looking out onto serenely stunning Kent Estuary views, this boutique-style guesthouse is a top-drawer experience throughout, from the hospitable welcome to the tranquil surrounds and great walks. Beautiful rooms and fantastic sunsets. The home-made biscuits are a treat. **www.no43.org.uk**

BASSENTHWAITE Pheasant 🍴 £££

Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9YE ***Tel*** *01768 776234* ***Fax*** *01768 76002* ***Rooms*** *15*

This well-loved hostelry retains its traditional and tranquil ambience. Built 500 years ago as a farmhouse, it became an alehouse in 1778. Has bright and cheery bedrooms; all have en suite facilities. The snug bar is highly popular. Also has a spacious lounge. Includes breakfast. **www.the-pheasant.co.uk**

BLACKBURN Millstone P 🍴 ♿ ££

3 Church Lane, Mellor, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB2 7JR ***Tel*** *01254 813333* ***Fax*** *01254 812628* ***Rooms*** *23*

A former coaching inn that retains its original charm, while adding modern amenities. One of the highest-rated, two-star hotels in the country, it offers neat, practical bedrooms. A good base for those interested in exploring the countryside. Room rates include breakfast. **www.millstonehotel.co.uk**

BLACKBURN Northcote 🍴 ♿ £££££

Northcote Rd, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB6 8BE ***Tel*** *01254 240555* ***Fax*** *01254 246568* ***Rooms*** *14*

A luxurious restaurant-with-rooms, housed in an elegant manor amid lovely gardens. This comfortable house is renowned for its warmth and friendly welcome, as well as superb cuisine. Offers individually decorated rooms, with modern amenities, a traditional English breakfast and complimentary newspaper. **www.northcote.com**

BLACKPOOL Raffles 🍴 £

73–77 Hornby Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY1 4QJ ***Tel*** *01253 294713* ***Fax*** *01253 294240* ***Rooms*** *22*

Flower-decked, white-and-blue painted B&B close to the famous Blackpool Tower. A decided notch above the usual seaside offering, it offers a warm welcome along with bright and stylish rooms. A great place for afternoon tea; the evening meals are generous. Includes breakfast. **www.raffleshotelblackpool.co.uk**

BLACKPOOL Hotel Sheraton ⇅ 🍴 ≋ ££

54–62 Queens Promenade, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY2 9RP ***Tel*** *01253 352723* ***Fax*** *01253 595499* ***Rooms*** *104*

Features an entertainment programme every night of the week, as well as several attractions for kids. The public areas and well-appointed bedrooms are exceptionally spacious, and the service standards high. Also has a large indoor pool and sauna. Includes breakfast. **www.hotelsheraton.co.uk**

BLACKPOOL The Imperial ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ £££

N Promenade, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY1 2HB ***Tel*** *01253 623971* ***Fax*** *01253 751784* ***Rooms*** *180*

Part of the Barcelo Hotel Group, this opulent hotel is ideally located – it presents spectacular views over the beach and the sea, and is only minutes from the local attractions. Rooms and suites are elegantly furnished. Also has a sauna, steam room and spa. Includes breakfast. **www.barcelo-hotels.co.uk**

BOLTON The Last Drop Village Hotel and Spa ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ £££

Bromley Cross, Bolton, Lancashire, BL7 9PZ ***Tel*** *01204 591131* ***Fax*** *01204 598824* ***Rooms*** *128*

One of a kind, this charming retreat is a re-creation of a typical North Country moorland village. Features arts and crafts shops and a range of eating options. Rooms are modern and well equipped. The glorious Pennine Hills are close by, and it's a short drive into bustling Manchester. Includes breakfast. **www.mercure-uk.com**

BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE Lindeth Fell Country House Hotel 🍴 ♿ ££

Lyth Valley Rd, Bowness-On-Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 3JP ***Tel*** *01539 443286* ***Fax*** *01539 444287* ***Rooms*** *14*

Relaxing country-house hotel, located in the beautiful hills above Lake Windermere. The decor is fresh and stylish, with original works of art adorning the walls. Has spacious, attractively furnished rooms, equipped with modern amenities. Includes breakfast. **www.lindethfell.co.uk**

BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE Linthwaite House 🍴 ♿ £££

Crook Rd, Bowness-On-Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 3JA ***Tel*** *01539 488600* ***Fax*** *01539 488601* ***Rooms*** *30*

A fine country house, located on a sublime hilltop setting, overlooking the beautiful waters of Lake Windermere. The rooms are elegantly decorated, with modern conveniences and great views. This romantic retreat is an ideal venue for a wedding or honeymoon. Complimentary use of nearby fitness centre. Includes breakfast. **www.linthwaite.com**

BUTTERMERE Wood House ⊘ £

Buttermere, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9XA ***Tel*** *01768 770208* ***Fax*** *01768 770241* ***Rooms*** *3*

Magnificent views across the Lake District fells. The rooms personify simple elegance, furnished with lovely antiques. However, the greatest appeal of this tiny hideaway is the owner's home-baked bread. Also has a delightful stone cottage that can be rented on a weekly basis. Includes breakfast. **www.wdhse.co.uk**

CARLISLE Number Thirty-One P 🍴 ££

31 Howard Place, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 1HR ***Tel*** *01228 597080* ***Fax*** *01228 597080* ***Rooms*** *4*

A stylish Victorian town house in a quiet residential area, yet just a short distance from the city centre. The decor is bold and full of panache. Offers evening meals, provided they are pre-ordered as only fresh ingredients are used. Charming rooms, equipped with modern conveniences. Includes breakfast. **www.number31.co.uk**

CARLISLE Dalston Hall P 🍴 £££

Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA5 7JX ***Tel*** *01228 710271* ***Fax*** *01228 711273* ***Rooms*** *13*

Enveloped in delightful northern Lake District countryside, this Grade II listed castle boasts well-appointed, individually designed rooms. The dining is excellent and the staff attentive. For extra luxury, book into the Knight of the Shires suite. Quiet location with an adjacent golf course. **www.dalston-hall-hotel.co.uk**

CHIPPING The Gibbon Bridge Hotel ⇅ 🍴 🏋 ♿ £££

Chipping, Forest of Bowland, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 2TQ ***Tel*** *01995 61456* ***Fax*** *01995 61277* ***Rooms*** *30*

Stone-built, luxury hotel located in the Forest of Bowland – designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Offers fine dining, expansive gardens and tastefully decorated rooms. A profusion of country pursuits such as walks, cycling, bird-watching and fishing are available. Includes breakfast. **www.gibbon-bridge.co.uk**

COCKERMOUTH The Trout 🍴 ♿ £££

Crown St, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 0EJ ***Tel*** *01900 823591* ***Fax*** *01900 827514* ***Rooms*** *51*

An appropriate name for a comfortable, if a little impersonal hotel that stands by the fast-moving River Derwent in the northern reaches of Lake District. Just a short walk into delightful Cockermouth – if you can tear yourself away from the hotel's lovely gardens. Room rates include breakfast. **www.trouthotel.co.uk**

GRANGE-INN-BORROWDALE Borrowdale Gates 🍴 ££

Grange-Inn-Borrowdale, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5UQ ***Tel*** *01768 777204* ***Fax*** *01768 777254* ***Rooms*** *27*

In a wooded valley close to the shores of Derwentwater, "The Queen of the English Lakes". This relaxing hotel is a sensible base for walking, climbing and touring this scenic region. The ever-changing colours of the seasons add to the charm of this smart and well-managed hotel. Includes breakfast and evening meal. **www.borrowdale-gates.com**

GRASSMERE Howfoot Lodge 🍴 £

Town End, Grassmere, Cumbria, LA22 9SQ ***Tel*** *01539 435366* ***Fax*** *01539 435268* ***Rooms*** *7*

This Victorian guesthouse is owned by the Wordsworth Trust. It stands in landscaped gardens and is furnished with period antiques in keeping with the house. Has pleasant and cheerful rooms, two of which are deluxe standard. An excellent place for outdoor activities such as walks and bicycling. Includes breakfast. **www.howfoot.co.uk**

HAWKSHEAD Queens Head Hotel P 🍴 ♿ ££

Main St, Hawkeshead, Cumbria, LA22 ONS ***Tel*** *01539 436271* ***Fax*** *01539 436722* ***Rooms*** *14*

At the heart of one of the prettiest Lakeland villages. Low, exposed oak-beamed ceilings, flagstone floors and a profusion of memorabilia create a relaxed and informal ambience. Some rooms have four-poster beds. Also has family rooms. Food is prepared using fresh local produce. Includes breakfast. **www.queensheadhotel.co.uk**

KENDAL Best Western Castle Green Kendal ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ ££

Castle Green Lane, Kendal, LA9 6BH ***Tel*** *01539 734000* ***Rooms*** *99*

Helpful, attentive staff is a plus at this attractively located Kendal hotel. The setting is picturesque, the accommodation is comfortable and the hotel's restaurant combines excellent food with lovely views. The in-house pub here serves good real ales. **www.castlegreen.co.uk**

KESWICK The Grange ££

Manor Brow, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4BA ***Tel*** *01768 772500* ***Fax*** *01768 772500* ***Rooms*** *10*

The only five-star establishment in the Keswick area, this small guesthouse was once a hotel and it has retained the hotel-style facilities, which have brought guests back time and again. The scenic views of England's highest mountains are breathtaking, the hospitality faultless. Includes breakfast. **www.grangekeswick.com**

LANCASTER The Ashton P £££

Wyresdale Rd, Lancaster, LA1 3JJ ***Tel*** *01524 68460* ***Rooms*** *5*

Staying at this exquisite B&B with a personal touch is a memorable experience. The handmade chocolates are tantalising, the superb breakfasts comprise all locally sourced ingredients and the gratis drink on arrival makes for a warm welcome. Rooms are chic and comfortable; bathrooms have underfloor heating. **www.theashtonlancaster.com**

LANCASTER Lancaster House 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ ££££

Green Lane, Ellel, Lancaster, LA1 4GJ ***Tel*** *01524 844822* ***Fax*** *01524 844766* ***Rooms*** *99*

Savour the good things in life in this modern and elegant hotel, with its gourmet restaurant, intimate bar and balconied lounge. The hotel has 19 luxury suites, and all rooms have modern conveniences, as well as a spa and hot tubs in its leisure club. Includes breakfast. **www.elh.co.uk**

LIVERPOOL Lilies Guesthouse P 🍴 ♿ £

4 Derwent Square, Old Swan, Liverpool, L13 6QT ***Tel*** *0151 222 6764* ***Fax*** *07791 109854* ***Rooms*** *6*

The Stoneycroft location may not be totally central, but all other boxes are ticked at this pleasant and much-liked Victorian guesthouse. The comfortable, clean en suite rooms and tasty breakfasts are excellent value, and the guesthouse overlooks the lovely Derwent Square, a conservation area. **www.liliesguesthouse.co.uk**

LIVERPOOL Hard Days Night Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ▤ ♿ ££

Central Buildings, North John St, Liverpool, L2 6RR ***Tel*** *0151 236 1964* ***Fax*** *0151 255 1263* ***Rooms*** *110*

This stylish boutique hotel in the heart of the city attracts Beatles fans from around the world. Specially commissioned art work and memorabilia adorns the walls of this converted Grade II listed building that pays homage to the Fab Four. Business facilities are available. Check the website for special deals. **www.harddaysnighthotel.com**

LIVERPOOL Hope Street Hotel P £££

40 Hope St, Liverpool, L1 9DA ***Tel*** *0151 709 3000* ***Fax*** *0151 709 2454* ***Rooms*** *48*

Built in 1860 in the style of a Venetian palazzo, Liverpool's first boutique hotel is set in the city's beautiful Georgian quarter. The contemporary rooms are individually designed and feature solid wood floors, large beds and Egyptian cotton sheets. A good base from which to explore the city. Includes breakfast. **www.hopestreethotel.co.uk**

LIVERPOOL Malmaison ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ▤ ♿ £££

William Jessop Way, Princes Dock, Liverpool, L3 1QZ ***Tel*** *0151 229 5000* ***Fax*** *0151 229 5002* ***Rooms*** *130*

This stylishly dark Malmaison offers sleek design with distinctive charcoal hues and modern, roomy accommodation. The location on Princes Dock is central, and the gym can help shift calories put on at the impressive Malmaison brasserie. Rooms with views of the docks are pricier. **www.malmaison-liverpool.com**

LYTHAM ST ANNES Lindum Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ££

63–67 S Promenade, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, FY8 1LZ ***Tel*** *01253 721534* ***Fax*** *01253 721364* ***Rooms*** *78*

A delightful, family-run hotel, located within easy walking distance of the city centre. This seaside retreat has attractively decorated rooms, equipped with modern facilities; most rooms have great views and a sauna and jacuzzi. Serves fresh local produce. Sunday lunch is a much-anticipated affair. Room rates include breakfast. **www.lindumhotel.co.uk**

MANCHESTER Malmaison ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ♿ £££

Piccadilly, Manchester, Lancashire, M1 3AQ ***Tel*** *0161 278 1000* ***Fax*** *0161 278 1002* ***Rooms*** *167*

Stylish hotel housed in a converted, 19th-century building, located in the centre of town. Close to the Piccadilly train station, several shops and other downtown attractions. Offers contemporary rooms, decorated in bright, bold colours. Also has a bistro-style restaurant and a spa. **www.malmaison-manchester.com**

MANCHESTER Velvet

⇅ 🍴 ☰ ♿ £££

2 Canal St, Manchester, M1 3HE ***Tel*** *0161 236 9003* ***Fax*** *0161 236 7127* ***Rooms*** *19*

In the heart of Manchester, Velvet is a sumptuous choice with ample wow factor and flair. The plush, highly distinctive rooms are fully equipped and a cut above the rest, while the decor and service throughout is excellent. Most guests experience the signature restaurant to fully round off their stay. **www.velvetmanchester.com**

MANCHESTER The Midland Hotel

⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ ££££

Peter St, Manchester, Lancashire, M60 2DS ***Tel*** *0161 236 3333* ***Fax*** *0161 932 4100* ***Rooms*** *312*

This imposing, red sandstone hotel has been one of Manchester's most familiar landmarks since it opened in 1903. Elegance, luxury and high standards of service, accommodation and cuisine are on offer. Also has an indoor pool and a spa. Breakfast is included in the room rates. **www.qhotels.co.uk**

MANCHESTER The Lowry

⇅ P 🍴 🍸 ☰ ♿ £££££

50 Dearmans Place, Chapel Wharf, Salford, Greater Manchester, M3 5LH ***Tel*** *0161 827 4000* ***Rooms*** *165*

This ultra-modern, ultra-chic riverside hotel is frequented by celebrities, fashion icons, pop stars and sports personalities. Rooms are modern and elegant, while the restaurant purveys modernistic British cuisine. **www.roccofortecollection.com**

OLD TRAFFORD Old Trafford Lodge

⇅ ♿ £

Lancashire County Cricket Club, Old Trafford, Manchester, Lancashire, M16 OPX ***Tel*** *0161 874 3333* ***Rooms*** *68*

Built next to the cricket ground and just minutes from Manchester United's ground and the huge Old Trafford shopping centre. This modern hotel offers comfortable rooms, with en suite facilities and modern conveniences. A short drive from the city centre. Includes breakfast. **www.oldtraffordlodgehotel.co.uk**

PENRITH Macdonald Leeming House

P 🍴 ♿ £££

Ullswater, Penrith, CA11 0JJ ***Tel*** *0844 879 9142* ***Fax*** *01786 486443* ***Rooms*** *41*

Embedded within vast grounds bordering Ullswater Lake, this traditional Cumbrian hotel offers excellent service, a fine location and a high degree of comfort. Superb breakfasts and fine dining in the Regency Restaurant and activities such as croquet and private fishing are available. **www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/leeminghouse**

PRESTON Barton Grange Hotel

⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ ££

Garstang Road, Barton, Preston, Lancashire PR3 5AA ***Tel*** *01772 862551* ***Fax*** *01772 861267* ***Rooms*** *51*

This hotel was originally designed as a fine gentlemen's residence. Its most recent refurbishment, inspired by the hotel's history, successfully recreated the Edwardian ambiance of the oak panelled lounge, and restored many of the original features. Staff are friendly and non-intrusive. Includes breakfast. **www.bartongrangehotel.co.uk**

SAWREY Sawrey Hotel

🍴 £

Far Sawrey, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 OLQ ***Tel*** *01539 443425* ***Fax*** *01539 443425* ***Rooms*** *19*

Set in the conservation area for Beatrix Potter's Hilltop Farm, this charming property has a homely atmosphere. The bedrooms are spacious and tastefully furnished; most of them offer stunning views of the surroundings. Attractions such as Estwaite Water and Grizedale Forest are located nearby. Includes breakfast and dinner. **www.sawreyhotel.co.uk**

ULLSWATER Sharrow Bay

🍴 ♿ £££££

Ullswater, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 2LZ ***Tel*** *01768 486301* ***Fax*** *01768 486349* ***Rooms*** *24*

An exquisite country-house hotel, located in a magnificent lakeside setting. Renowned for its excellent cuisine, stylish decor and perfect service. The rooms are appropriately luxurious, and the view from the dining room is claimed as one of England's most beautiful. Dinner and breakfast are included in the room rate. **www.sharrowbay.co.uk**

WHITEWELL Inn At Whitewell

🍴 £££

Whitewell, Forest of Bowland, Lancashire, BB7 3AT ***Tel*** *01200 448222* ***Fax*** *01200 448298* ***Rooms*** *23*

Old-fashioned, yet sophisticated riverside inn. This welcoming and friendly retreat shares its premises with an art gallery and a wine merchant. Parts of the building date to the early 1300s. The rooms are stylishly spectacular. Serves delicious food and wines. A memorable experience. Includes breakfast. **www.innatwhitewell.com**

WINDERMERE The Archway

P 🍴 £

13 College Rd, Windermere, LA23 1BU ***Tel*** *015394 45613* ***Fax*** *015394 45613* ***Rooms*** *4*

Perfectly located for Lake District sojourns, this lovely guesthouse is a picture and is presided over by helpful owners who make all guests feel welcome. The views are good, and the cooking – extending to home-made biscuits in every room and soup for cold winter walks – is a triumph. **www.the-archway.com**

WINDERMERE Gilpin Lodge

🍴 ♿ £££

Crook Rd, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 3NE ***Tel*** *01539 488818* ***Fax*** *01539 488058* ***Rooms*** *20*

Several acres of gardens, woods and moorland provide a glorious setting for this long-established country-house hotel. The roaring log fires, fine wines and superb food in the AA Rosette-awarded restaurant add to the feeling of utter contentment. Rooms are spacious and beautifully furnished. Includes breakfast and dinner. **www.gilpinlodge.co.uk**

WINDERMERE Holbeck Ghyll

🍴 🍸 ♿ £££££

Holbeck Lane, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1LU ***Tel*** *015394 323 75* ***Fax*** *015394 347 43* ***Rooms*** *23*

An oasis of calm, perfect for relaxing on the terrace and soaking up fantastic views across Lake Windermere to the rugged fells beyond. Food is mouthwateringly good, and the plush armchairs and open fire of the lounge encourage an indulgent way of life. Also has a spa and sauna. Includes breakfast. **www.holbeckghyll.com**

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER REGION

AMPLEFORTH Shallowdale House ££

Ampleforth, nr York, North Yorkshire, YO62 4DY ***Tel*** *01439 788325* ***Fax*** *01439 788885* ***Rooms*** *3*

Refined guesthouse, just 32 km (20 miles) from York and on the southern edge of the North York Moors National Park. This small retreat was built in the 1960s, and overlooks an exquisite landscape of unspoilt Yorkshire countryside. The rooms are simple, yet stylish. **www.shallowdalehouse.co.uk**

BARNSLEY Holiday Inn ⇅ 🍴 ≈ 🏋 ♿ £

Barnsley Rd, Dodsworth, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 3JT ***Tel*** *01226 299571* ***Fax*** *01226 249465* ***Rooms*** *77*

This four-star hotel features well-appointed rooms, blending traditional elegance with modern conveniences. Includes executive suites and some rooms with four-poster beds. Holds a license for conducting civil wedding ceremonies. Also has nine conference rooms. **www.hibarnsley.com**

BEVERLEY Tickton Grange Hotel 🍴 £££

Main St, Tickton, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU17 9SH ***Tel*** *01964 543666* ***Fax*** *01964 542556* ***Rooms*** *20*

A charming Georgian country-house hotel, set amid lovely, landscaped grounds. Offers contemporary, en suite bedrooms, with thoughtful touches adding to the charm. The tranquil setting is ideal for both weddings and conferences. Serves mouthwatering desserts. Includes breakfast. **www.ticktongrange.co.uk**

BRADFORD Dubrovnik Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 ♿ £

3 Oak Avenue, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD8 7AQ ***Tel*** *01274 543511* ***Fax*** *01274 480407* ***Rooms*** *45*

Bradford's oldest privately owned hotel has spacious, comfortable rooms and a relaxed atmosphere. Situated in the leafy suburbs, this former mill owner's residence also has a well-renowned restaurant that is popular with locals and guests alike. Special deals are available at weekends, and there is live jazz on Mondays. **www.dubrovnik.co.uk**

EAST WITTON Blue Lion 🍴 ££

E Witton, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4SN ***Tel*** *01969 624273* ***Fax*** *01969 624189* ***Rooms*** *15*

A classy, 18th-century coaching inn, set amid beautiful surroundings. Offers simple, but comfortable rooms, with modern conveniences. Also caters for weddings, conferences and other events. The hotel is located just a short distance from many attractions, including Jervaulx Abbey. Includes breakfast. **www.thebluelion.co.uk**

FLAMBOROUGH Manor House £

Flamborough, Bridlington, East Yorkshire, YO15 1PD ***Tel*** *01262 850943* ***Fax*** *01262 850943* ***Rooms*** *2*

An elegant Georgian country house in a Grade II listed building. Offers just two rooms, both traditionally decorated, yet with modern amenities. Ideal for those looking for an intimate and quiet retreat. The surrounding countryside is a favourite among walkers and bird-watchers. Includes breakfast. **www.flamboroughmanor.co.uk**

GRASSINGTON Ashfield 🍴 ££

Summersfold, Grassington, North Yorkshire, BD23 5AE ***Tel*** *01756 752584* ***Fax*** *07092 376562* ***Rooms*** *8*

This peaceful 17th-century hotel near Summersfold's cobbled square has elegantly furnished rooms with modern conveniences; the restaurant serves set meals only. Well placed to explore the beauty of the surrounding Yorkshire Dales. Activities such as fishing, sailing and horse riding are available. Includes breakfast. **www.ashfieldhouse.co.uk**

GUISBOROUGH Gisborough Hall ⇅ P 🍴 ☰ ♿ ££

Whitby Lane, Guisborough, TS14 6PT ***Tel*** *0844 879 9149* ***Fax*** *01287 610844* ***Rooms*** *71*

This traditional-style hotel is surrounded by woodland and offers scenic views of the Cleveland Hills. Set in an ivy-clad, grand Victorian building, the accommodation includes feature rooms. Fine walking opportunities in the surrounding Yorkshire countryside are at hand. **www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/gisborough**

HALIFAX Holdsworth House P 🍴 ♿ ££

Holdsworth Rd, Holmfield, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX2 9TG ***Tel*** *01422 240024* ***Fax*** *01422 245174* ***Rooms*** *40*

Grand, 17th-century Jacobean manor, just a short distance from Halifax. Has individually decorated rooms and suites, with modern amenities; some with four-poster beds. The expansive gardens are ideal for hosting weddings. Also offers conference facilities. Includes breakfast. **www.holdsworthhouse.co.uk**

HARROGATE Balmoral 🍴 £££

Franklin Mount, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 5EJ ***Tel*** *01423 508208* ***Fax*** *01423 530652* ***Rooms*** *23*

A mock-Tudor frontage makes this luxurious hotel easy to spot. Offers tastefully furnished rooms, as well as well-equipped business facilities. The decor here is a perfect mix of traditional and contemporary. Boasts an award-winning restaurant. Room rate includes breakfast. **www.balmoralhotel.co.uk**

HAWORTH Old White Lion Hotel 🍴 ££

Main St, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8DU ***Tel*** *01535 642313* ***Fax*** *01535 646222* ***Rooms*** *14*

A 300-year-old family-run coaching inn, set at the top of the cobbled main street in Haworth, a Yorkshire town redolent with memories of the Brontë sisters. The parsonage and the museum are a few steps away, and the Keighley & Wortley steam railway stops nearby. Offers comfortable rooms. Includes breakfast. **www.oldwhitelionhotel.com**

Key to Price Guide *see p556* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

HELMSLEY Feversham Arms 🍴 ≋ £££

1–8 High St, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO62 5AG ***Tel*** *01439 770766* ***Fax*** *01439 770346* ***Rooms*** *24*

This comfortable, refurbished coaching inn has been around for more than 150 years. Located next to the parish church, the hotel offers pleasant rooms. The cuisine here is impeccable, yet unpretentious. Also has a heated swimming pool. Includes breakfast. **www.fevershamarmshotel.com**

HOVINGHAM Worsley Arms 🍴 £££

Main St, Hovingham, Yorkshire, YO62 4LA ***Tel*** *01653 628234* ***Fax*** *01653 628134* ***Rooms*** *19*

Built in the 1840s as a spa hotel, this exquisite and timeless country house features open log fires and stylish furnishings. The informal and relaxing environment, in the depths of the Yorkshire countryside, is perfect for a stress-relieving break. Room rate includes breakfast. **www.worsleyarms.co.uk**

HUDDERSFIELD Huddersfield Central Lodge P ♿ £

11/15 Beast Market, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 1QF ***Tel*** *01484 515551* ***Fax*** *01484 432349* ***Rooms*** *21*

A well-run, centrally located hotel with spacious, comfortable rooms and friendly service. The reception is manned 24 hours, and there is a porter service available. A bar gets going in the evenings, while the breakfasts are excellent. On-site secure parking; for non-drivers it is a short walk from the train station. **www.centrallodge.com**

LEEDS Bewley's Hotel Leeds ⇅ 🍴 ♿ £

City Walk, Sweet St, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS11 9AT ***Tel*** *0113 234 2340* ***Fax*** *0113 234 2349* ***Rooms*** *334*

Opened in 2003, this is Leeds' largest hotel. Conveniently situated in the heart of the city's commercial and shopping district, it offers great value for money. The rooms are large and stylishly furnished, with Internet access, TVs, en suite facilities and more. The city station is just a ten-minute walk away. Includes breakfast. **www.bewleyshotels.com**

LEEDS Haley's Hotel & Restaurant 🍴 £

Shire Oak Rd, Headingley, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS6 2DE ***Tel*** *0113 278 4446* ***Fax*** *0113 275 3342* ***Rooms*** *27*

Located in a leafy suburb, just a short distance from the city centre. The bedrooms are individually furnished with style and flair, and equipped with many modern conveniences. The cuisine is inventive and well presented by people who really care. Room rate includes breakfast. **www.haleys.co.uk**

LEEDS 42 The Calls ⇅ ♿ 🍴 £££

42 The Call, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS2 7EW ***Tel*** *0113 244 0099* ***Fax*** *0113 234 4100* ***Rooms*** *41*

A refreshingly different town-house hotel that manages to be trendy without becoming a cliché. This converted cornmill, set beside River Nidd, features beamed ceilings, original mill mechanisms, modern handmade beds and a collection of original works of art. Offers luxurious rooms. Includes breakfast. **www.theetoncollection.co.uk**

LEEDS Malmaison Leeds ⇅ 🍴 🍸 ♿ £££

1 Swine Gate, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS1 4AG ***Tel*** *0113 398 1000* ***Fax*** *0113 398 1002* ***Rooms*** *100*

Conceived ten years ago as a chic brasserie and bar with themed rooms, this stylish hotel has grown into a chain with its finger on the pulse of contemporary-style hospitality. Situated in the centre of town, it is an easy walk from all local attractions. Offers striking views of the town's skyline. Includes breakfast. **www.malmaison-leeds.com**

PICKERING White Swan 🍴 £££

Market Place, Pickering, North Yorkshire, Y018 7AA ***Tel*** *01751 472288* ***Fax*** *01751 475554* ***Rooms*** *21*

Set in the picturesque Vale of Pickering, at the foot of the North York Moors, this delightful country-house inn is priced affordably. Offers pleasant, comfortable rooms. Also has conference facilities. The restaurant serves highly appreciated food. Includes breakfast. **www.white-swan.co.uk**

RICHMOND King's Head 🍴 £££

Market Place, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4HS ***Tel*** *01748 850220* ***Fax*** *01748 850635* ***Rooms*** *30*

Close to King Henry VIII's favourite castle and overlooking the fast-flowing River Swale. The rooms at this hotel are individually styled and tastefully furnished. Local attractions such as the Georgian Theatre Royal are also nearby. Boasts an acclaimed bar, and serves afternoon tea in the lounge. Includes breakfast. **www.kingsheadrichmond.com**

RIPON The Old Deanery P 🍴 ♿ ££

Minster Rd, Ripon, HG4 1QS ***Tel*** *01765 600 003* ***Rooms*** *11*

Located opposite Ripon Cathedral and priding itself on good service, the historic Old Deanery is housed in a building dating to 1625. Period features include a 17th-century oak staircase, and there are lovely terraced gardens. Rooms are bright; some have four-poster beds and views over the cathedral. Dining is excellent. **www.theolddeanery.co.uk**

ROYDHOUSE Three Acres Inn 🍴 £££

Roydhouse, Shelley, West Yorkshire, HD8 8LR ***Tel*** *01484 602606* ***Fax*** *01484 608411* ***Rooms*** *20*

A rambling old millstone building with lots of character. The rooms are simple, yet comfortably furnished; many offer views of the open moorland. Has independent cottages as well, each with its own garden. Also hosts a traditional shop with pickles, spices and preserves. Ample car parking space. Room rate includes breakfast. **www.3acres.com**

SCARBOROUGH Wrea Head Country House Hotel P 🍴 ♿ ££

Barmoor Lane, Scalby, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO13 0PB ***Tel*** *01723 371 190* ***Rooms*** *21*

Located in the North Yorkshire village of Scalby, this grand hotel boasts a picture postcard look and a sensational setting. All rooms, from the standard doubles to the four-poster room and suite, are comfortable and have Gilchrist and Soames toiletries. The restaurant is excellent. Scarborough is a short drive away. **www.wrea-head-hotel.co.uk**

THORNTON WATLASS The Buck Inn ££

Thornton Watlass, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 4AH ***Tel*** *01677 422461* ***Fax*** *01677 422447* ***Rooms*** *7*

An archetypal village hostelry with real ale, quality home-cooked food and comfortable bedrooms. The pub wall marks the boundary of the village cricket green. At the rear is a large and secluded garden with a children's play area. Located a short distance from the bustling A1 trunk road. Includes breakfast. **www.thebuckinn.net**

WHITBY Broom House ££

Broom House Lane, Egton Bridge, Whitby, YO21 1XD ***Tel*** *01947 895 279* ***Rooms*** *10*

Within the picturesque village of Egton Bridge, Broom House provides traditional accommodation in a lovely garden setting. All rooms are of a high standard and have en suite facilities, while the Yorkshire breakfasts are first rate. This is a good base from which to explore the North York Moors and the seaside town of Whitby. **www.egton-bridge.co.uk**

YARM Judges Country House Hotel £££

Kirklevington Hall, Yarm, Cleveland, North Yorkshire, TS15 9LW ***Tel*** *01642 789000* ***Fax*** *01642 782878* ***Rooms*** *21*

A luxury hotel housed in Kirklevington Hall, a glorious country mansion. The bedrooms and suites are stylishly decorated, with modern amenities such as jacuzzis, CD players, hairdryers, complimentary newspapers and more. Showcases several antiques and works of art as well. Includes breakfast. **www.judgeshotel.co.uk**

YORK Mount Royale Hotel ££

119 The Mount, York, YO24 1GU ***Tel*** *01904 628856* ***Fax*** *01904 611171* ***Rooms*** *24*

Housed in a William IV listed building, the Mount Royale exudes a charming old-world charm, while a thorough attention to cleanliness is matched by helpful staff. Rooms are comfortable and spacious; some have lovely views over the garden. Outdoor hot tub and heated pool (open May to September). **www.mountroyale.co.uk**

YORK The Churchill Hotel ££

65 Bootham, York, YO30 7DQ ***Tel*** *01904 644456* ***Fax*** *01904 663322* ***Rooms*** *32*

Occupying a grand Georgian house, the Churchill is a cosy hotel with a pleasant old-fashioned atmosphere. The well-equipped rooms combine traditional features with contemporary fittings; all are en suite. Staff are attentive, and the hotel offers fine dining. Close to the centre of town and York Minster. **www.churchillhotel.com**

YORK The Royal York £££

Station Rd, York, Yorkshire, YO24 1AA ***Tel*** *01904 653681* ***Fax*** *01904 623503* ***Rooms*** *167*

Part of the Principal Hotels chain, this magnificent Victorian retreat is set in vast, landscaped gardens. Offers en suite, luxury rooms, with all modern amenities; has two, specially designed rooms for the disabled as well. Also has a conference centre. Just a few steps from the centre of town. Includes breakfast. **www.royalhotelyork.co.uk**

YORK Middlethorpe Hall ££££

Bishopthorpe Rd, York, Yorkshire, YO23 2GB ***Tel*** *01904 641241* ***Fax*** *01904 620176* ***Rooms*** *29*

One of the selective Historic House Hotels chain and, arguably, its finest. Set on 20 acres of outstanding gardens and parkland, this country-house hotel is filled with antiques and works of art. Built in 1699, it offers elegant accommodation in the main house and the adjacent mews cottages. Includes breakfast. **www.middlethorpe.com**

NORTHUMBRIA

BELFORD Waren House Hotel ££££

Waren Mill, Belford, Northumberland, NE70 7EE ***Tel*** *01668 214581* ***Fax*** *01668 214484* ***Rooms*** *13*

This small hotel enjoys outstanding views of the Cheviot Hills from its six acres of mature woodlands and formal gardens. Features individually decorated rooms and suites. Its location next to Budle Bay, a bird life sanctuary, makes it a favourite with bird-watchers. Includes breakfast. **www.warenhousehotel.co.uk**

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED The Walls Bed and Breakfast ££

8 Quay Walls, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, TD15 1HB ***Tel*** *01289 330 233* ***Rooms*** *3*

This charming, award-winning B&B has delightful rooms and views over the River Tweed. The Walls occupies a period townhouse that sits on the Edwardian Walls in the historic centre of Berwick-upon-Tweed. The delectable, home-made fishcakes and other delights served for breakfast make for a memorable stay. **www.thewallsberwick.com**

CHESTER-LE-STREET Lumley Castle £££

Chester-le-St, Durham, DH3 4NX ***Tel*** *0191 389 1111* ***Fax*** *0191 387 1437* ***Rooms*** *73*

A genuine medieval castle, complete with battlements and arrow slits, that has been converted into a luxurious hotel. The en suite rooms are elegantly decorated; some with antiques and four-poster beds. A perfect choice for a romantic break. Located a short distance from Durham and Newcastle. Includes breakfast. **www.lumleycastle.com**

CROOKHAM Coach House £

Crookham, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland, TD12 4TD ***Tel*** *01890 820293* ***Fax*** *01890 820284* ***Rooms*** *10*

Welcoming guesthouse set in a complex of renovated farm buildings that include a 1680s cottage and an old-smithy, all surrounding a sun-trap courtyard. The Coach House offers excellent home cooking and comfortable rooms, and has a reputation for maintaining high, award-winning standards. Includes breakfast. **www.coachhousecrookham.com**

DARLINGTON Headlam Hall P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ £££

Headlam, nr Gainford, Darlington, DL2 3HA ***Tel*** *01325 730238* ***Fax*** *01325 730790* ***Rooms*** *38*

With simply exquisite views and a wonderful sense of solitude and grandeur, this stunning 17th-century Durham Dales mansion is a great getaway. The comfortable rooms are well equipped and come in a range of sizes; the spa rooms have private rooftop balconies. Luxury spa, golf course and good walks nearby. **www.headlamhall.co.uk**

DURHAM Durham Marriott Hotel Royal County ↹ P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 £££

Old Elvet, Durham, County Durham, DH1 3JN ***Tel*** *0191 386 6821* ***Fax*** *0191 386 0704* ***Rooms*** *150*

Well placed in a historic city, dominated by a massive cathedral and castle. This large hotel offers spacious, tastefully furnished rooms, equipped with modern conveniences. Local attractions such as Beamish North Country Museum are within easy walking distance. Includes breakfast. **www.marriott.com**

DURHAM Whitworth Hall Country Park Hotel ↹ 🍴 £££

Near Spennymoor, Durham, County Durham, DL16 70X ***Tel*** *01388 811772* ***Fax*** *01388 818669* ***Rooms*** *29*

A Grade II listed building set amid several acres of lovely gardens. Offers stately en suite rooms; some with views. The deer grazing in the surrounding grounds enhance the hotel's tranquil and relaxing ambience. An idyllic location for weddings. Also provides conference facilities. Includes dinner and breakfast. **www.whitworthhall.co.uk**

HALTWHISTLE Centre Of Britain 🍴 ££

Main St, Haltwhistle, Northumberland, NE49 0BH ***Tel*** *01434 322422* ***Fax*** *01434 322655* ***Rooms*** *12*

Part of the 15th-century Pele Tower, this building served as a manor house, post office, coaching inn and more before it was converted into a hotel. The original architectural features have been retained and tastefully combined with modern touches. Has simple rooms. Includes breakfast. **www.centre-of-britain.org.uk**

HEXHAM Battlesteads Hotel P 🍴 ♿ ££

Wark on Tyne, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 3LS ***Tel*** *01434 230 209* ***Fax*** *01434 230 039* ***Rooms*** *17*

From the attentive service and high degree of comfort to the actively green, carbon-neutral ethos, it's hard to fault the Battlesteads. The lovely rural setting is complemented by great food and a good selection of real ale in the hotel bar. The curtained bunk bed in the family room is popular with children. **www.battlesteads.com**

HEXHAM Langley Castle Hotel ↹ P 🍴 ▤ ♿ £££

Langley-on-Tyne, Hexham, NE47 5LU ***Tel*** *01434 688 888* ***Fax*** *01434 684 019* ***Rooms*** *27*

The Langley enjoys a 14th-century castle setting not far from Hadrian's Wall. The medieval magnificence extends to the guestrooms, while the enveloping woodland is perfect for walks. Expect fine cuisine and much pageantry: battlements, sumptuous furnishings and log fires, plus a host of surrounding sights. **www.langleycastle.com**

INGLETON Thorngarth Country Guest House P £

New Rd, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3HN ***Tel*** *01524 241295* ***Rooms*** *5*

A welcoming Yorkshire Dales guesthouse with log fires and good, home-cooked food including Thorngarth's much-loved carrot cake. The guesthouse is ideally located for walks in the dales and for access to the Lake District. Generous breakfasts. No pets allowed. **www.thorngarth.com**

MORPETH Linden Hall ↹ P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 £££

Longhorsley, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 8XF ***Tel*** *0844 879 9084* ***Fax*** *01670 500001* ***Rooms*** *50*

Several hundred acres of woods and parkland, including an award-winning 18-hole golf course, frame this magnificent Georgian mansion. Boasts a health, leisure and fitness spa, a traditional pub and a much-acclaimed restaurant. Has well-appointed and stylish rooms. Includes breakfast. **www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk**

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE Hotel du Vin ↹ 🍴 ▤ ♿ £££

City Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2BE ***Tel*** *0191 229 2200* ***Rooms*** *42*

One of a chain of boutique hotels, the Newcastle Hotel du Vin is housed in a former Tyne Teas Steam Shipping Company building. There are excellent quayside views and modern, elegant rooms, equipped with handsprung mattresses, plasma TVs, DVD players and stunning bathrooms. Superb bistro and wine cellar. **www.hotelduvin.com**

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE Malmasion Newcastle ↹ 🍴 🍸 ♿ £££

104 Quayside, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 3DX ***Tel*** *0191 245 5000* ***Fax*** *0191 245 4545* ***Rooms*** *122*

Sophisticated warehouse conversion on the quayside, adjacent to the Millennium Bridge and opposite the outstanding Baltic arts centre. Part of the Malmaison chain of boutique hotels, which is renowned for its finger-on-the-pulse modern style, with much use of primary colours. Includes breakfast. **www.malmaison.com**

RICHMOND Frenchgate Hotel 🍴 ♿ ££

59–61 Frenchgate, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 7AE ***Tel*** *01748 822087* ***Fax*** *01748 823596* ***Rooms*** *9*

This family-friendly, elegant hotel offers comfortable, attractive rooms in a peaceful location. Dinner is served in a beautiful Georgian dining room, and there is a good choice of wines and local ales. The owner is both attentive to the needs of guests and a mine of local information. **www.thefrenchgate.co.uk**

ROMALDKIRK Rose & Crown 🍴 ♿ £££

Romaldkirk, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 9EB ***Tel*** *01833 650213* ***Fax*** *01833 650828* ***Rooms*** *12*

Picture postcard England at its best. The village green makes a charming backdrop for this delightful little inn. Inside, it is smart, yet reassuringly traditional. Serves home-made soup and delicious food. The rooms are small, but cosy. Ideal for an intimate getaway. Includes breakfast. **www.rose-and-crown.co.uk**

STANNERSBURN Pheasant

🍴 ££

Stannersburn, Kielder Water, Northumberland, NE48 1DD ***Tel*** *01434 240382* ***Fax*** *01434 240382* ***Rooms*** *8*

An ivy-covered inn near Kielder Water, the largest man-made lake in Europe. A friendly and warm place, full of character, offering spacious en suite rooms, many with countryside views. Food is freshly prepared, using local produce. Located close to Newcastle and Edinburgh. Includes breakfast. **www.thepheasantinn.com**

TILLMOUTH PARK Tillmouth Park Country House Hotel

🍴 £££

Cornhill-On-Tweed, Northumberland, TD12 4UU ***Tel*** *01890 882255* ***Fax*** *01890 882540* ***Rooms*** *14*

Hunting, shooting, fishing and golf are all on the menu at this elegant venue. Serves contemporary British cuisine in an award-winning dining room. Organizes chauffeured limousine pick ups from Edinburgh and Newcastle airports, as well as from Berwick station. Includes breakfast. **www.tillmouthpark.co.uk**

NORTH WALES

ABERDYFI Penhelig Arms

🍴 ♿ £

Aberdyfi, Gwynedd, LL35 0LT ***Tel*** *01654 767215* ***Fax*** *01654 767690* ***Rooms*** *15*

This whitewashed, seafront hotel is spread over three buildings – Penhelig House, Bodhelig and The Cottage. Offers lavish, contemporary rooms and suites, well-equipped with modern amenities. Most rooms boast splendid views of the sea. Serves tasty cuisine, and features an extensive wine list. **www.penheligarms.com**

ABERSOCH Porth Tocyn Country Hotel

🍴 ≋ £££

Abersoch, Gwynedd, LL53 7BU ***Tel*** *01758 713303* ***Fax*** *01758 713538* ***Rooms*** *17*

Country-house hotel renowned for its fine cuisine. Boasts fine views across Cardigan Bay. The rooms are furnished with antiques; those on the ground floor are suitable for disabled travellers (call in advance). Also hosts a children's play area, equipped with a TV, Nintendo, video and board games. Open Apr–Oct. **www.porthtocynhotel.co.uk**

BEAUMARIS Ye Olde Bull's Head Inn and Townhouse

🍴 ♿ £££

Castle St, Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey, LL58 8AP ***Tel*** *01248 810329* ***Fax*** *01248 811294* ***Rooms*** *26*

This charming inn on the Isle of Anglesey occupies a Grade II listed building dating back to the 15th century. The rooms combine modern facilities with ancient oak-beamed ceilings and antique furniture and fittings. Hosts an award-winning restaurant and a traditional freehouse bar that serves real ale. **www.bullsheadinn.co.uk**

BEDDGELERT Sygun Fawr Country House

🍴 ££

Beddgelert, Gwynedd, LL55 4NE ***Tel*** *01766 890258* ***Rooms*** *12*

Set in a truly rural setting, this four-star, country-house hotel sits amid a vast expanse of mountains and gardens. The rooms at this former, 17th-century manor feature exposed stone work, oak beams and inglenook fireplaces. The dining room, located in the oldest part of the building, has antique furniture. **www.sygunfawr.co.uk**

BETWS-Y-COED Craig-y-Dderwen Riverside Hotel

🍴 ♿ ££

Betws-y-Coed, Snowdonia National Park, North Wales, LL24 0AS ***Tel*** *01690 710293* ***Fax*** *01690 710362* ***Rooms*** *16*

Country-house hotel, set amid 16 acres of gardens in the heart of Snowdonia National Park. Boasts tastefully furnished rooms, with four-poster beds, log fires and modern amenities; a specially equipped room is available for disabled guests. This tranquil retreat also has a play area for children and free parking. **www.snowdoniahotel.com**

CAPEL GARMON Tan-y-Foel Country House

🍴 £££

Near Betws-y-Coed, Capel Garmen, Conwy, LL26 0RE ***Tel*** *01690 710507* ***Fax*** *01690 710681* ***Rooms*** *5*

This quiet and luxurious, family-run hotel is located within striking distance of Conwy Valley and Snowdonia. The rooms in this 17th-century, Welsh stone building are beautifully crafted to fuse traditional and modern styles. Activities such as hiking, horse riding and bird-watching are available nearby. **www.tyfhotel.co.uk**

CONWY Tir Y Coed Country House

P 🍴 ££

Rowen, LL32 8TP ***Tel*** *01492 650219* ***Rooms*** *7*

Nestled in one of North Wales' prettiest villages, this small, award-winning country-house hotel is the place to go for affordable luxury. The renowned restaurant is a "must-visit": Welsh beef and lamb take pride of place. Walled Conwy, with its imposing medieval castle, is 4 miles (6 km) away. **www.tirycoed.com**

CRICCIETH Mynydd Ednyfed Country House Hotel

🍴 🍸 ££

Caernarfon Rd, Criccieth, Gwynedd, LL52 0PH ***Tel*** *01766 523269* ***Fax*** *01766 522929* ***Rooms*** *9*

Secluded, 400-year-old, country-house hotel. Small, intimate rooms overlook expansive gardens, woods, an orchard and a paddock. Offers striking views of Tremadog Bay and Criccieth Castle as well. This family-run, Welsh retreat is licensed to conduct civil marriage ceremonies too. Tennis courts and a holistic therapy room are available. **www.criccieth.net**

HARLECH Gwrach Ynys

£

Harlech, Talsamau, Gwynedd, LL47 6TS ***Tel*** *01766 780742* ***Fax*** *01766 781199* ***Rooms*** *7*

A secluded B&B overlooking Snowdonia National Park. The rooms are cosy and modern, and the ground floor has two lounges. This Edwardian country house is located within reach of Harlech Castle, Royal St David's Golf Club, the Morfa Harlech Nature Reserve and the beach. **www.gwrachynys.co.uk**

LLANABER Llwyndu Farmhouse ££

Llanaber, Barmouth, Gwynedd, LL42 1RR ***Tel*** *01341 280144* ***Rooms*** *7*

Historic farmhouse set in a Grade II listed building, overlooking Cardigan Bay. This early 17th-century hotel has been renovated to provide en suite accommodation, and features oak-beamed ceilings, inglenook fireplaces and a stone spiral staircase, as well as many antiques and curios. **www.llwyndu-farmhouse.co.uk**

LLANBERIS Plas Coch ££

High St, Llanberis, Gwynned, LL55 4HB ***Tel*** *01286 872122* ***Fax*** *01286 872648* ***Rooms*** *7*

Welcoming guesthouse at the foot of Snowdon. Offers modern B&B accommodation in a spacious Victorian house, built around 1865. All rooms are en suite. This family-friendly hotel is located a short distance from Snowdon Mountain Railway, Llanberis Lake Railway and Padarn Country Park. **www.plas-coch.co.uk**

LLANDRILLO Tyddyn Llan £££

Near Corwen, Denbighshire, LL21 0ST ***Tel*** *01490 440264* ***Fax*** *01490 440414* ***Rooms*** *12*

Award-winning restaurant-with-rooms occupying an elegant Georgian house, and located in the Vale of Edeyrnion. Rooms are spacious and tastefully furnished, with en suite facilties; most rooms have great views. Sports activities such as fishing, golf, sailing, horse riding and walking are all within easy reach. **www.tyddynllan.co.uk**

LLANDUDNO St Tudno Hotel & Restaurant ££

The Promenade, Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 2LP ***Tel*** *01492 874411* ***Fax*** *01492 860407* ***Rooms*** *18*

Luxurious hotel with a highly acclaimed restaurant. Occupies a Victorian seafront terrace with great views over the town's promenade, gardens and beach, and the nearby Great Orme headland. The lavish rooms and suites are individually decorated, with modern facilities. Also has spacious lounges. **www.st-tudno.co.uk**

LLANDUDNO Bodysgallen Hall £££

Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 1RS ***Tel*** *01492 584466* ***Fax*** *01492 582519* ***Rooms*** *32*

Impressive, historic country-house hotel, set amid an expansive wooded parkland. Features a fabulous 17th-century rockery and walled garden. The luxurious rooms offer stunning views over Conwy Castle and the mountains of Snowdonia. Hosts an award-winning restaurant. **www.bodysgallen.com**

LLANGOLLEN The Wild Pheasant Hotel ££

Berwyn Road, Llangollen, Clwyd, LL20 8AD ***Tel*** *01978 860629* ***Fax*** *01978 861837* ***Rooms*** *46*

Charming hotel in a renovated 19th-century inn, the Wild Pheasant sits picturesquely in the beautiful surroundings of the Vale of Llangollen. Everything can be catered for here, from health and beauty spa retreats to gourmet breaks and even whitewater rafting, laser clay pigeon shooting and off-road driving. **www.wildpheasanthotel.co.uk**

PENMAENPOOL Penmaenuchaf Hall £££

Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 1YB ***Tel*** *01341 422129* ***Fax*** *01341 422787* ***Rooms*** *14*

Relaxing country-house retreat situated in Snowdonia National Park. The tastefully decorated rooms have wonderful views over the surrounding mountains. Outdoor pursuits such as mountain biking, fishing, walking, golf and horse riding are available nearby. The up-market restaurant serves modern British food. **www.penhall.co.uk**

PORTMEIRION Portmeirion £££££

Portmeirion, Gwynedd, LL48 6ET ***Tel*** *01766 770000* ***Fax*** *01766 771331* ***Rooms*** *53*

This village-like complex, built initially by Clough Williams-Ellis as a private peninsula, is now a holiday retreat with a popular hotel, self-catering cottage, shops and restaurants. The lavish rooms and suites are furnished in a contemporary style, and are well-equipped with modern facilities. **www.portmeirion-village.com**

RUTHIN Ruthin Castle Hotel £££

Ruthin, Denbighshire, LL15 2NU ***Tel*** *01824 702664* ***Fax*** *01824 705978* ***Rooms*** *62*

This luxurious, converted, 13th-century castle occupies a part of the former Crown Estate. The castle sits amid an ancient walled dry moat, with acres of landscaped gardens and parkland alongside the pretty River Clywd. Offers fine dining, a beauty spa and private fishing. Golf course located nearby. **www.ruthincastle.co.uk**

TALSARNAU Maes-y-Neuadd ££

Talsarnau, Harlech, Gwynedd, LL47 6YA ***Tel*** *01766 780200* ***Fax*** *01766 780211* ***Rooms*** *15*

Charming, 14th-century manor house, beautifully placed at the base of Snowdonia National Park. Houses lavish, well-equipped rooms. The award-winning restaurant is noted for Wales's lamb, fish and farmhouse cheese, while the intimate bar features an ancient inglenook fireplace and period curios. **www.neuadd.com**

SOUTH AND MID-WALES

ABERGAVENNY Clytha Arms ££

Clytha, nr Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 9BW ***Tel*** *01873 840206* ***Rooms*** *4*

Small, welcoming hotel-restaurant just outside the market town of Abergavenny with an award-winning pub for its real ale. Well placed for exploring the Brecon Beacons and the Sugar Loaf Mountain. The rooms are homely and cheerful, with views over the large grounds. Fishing trips can be arranged on request. **www.clytha-arms.com**

ABERYSTWYTH Gwesty Cymru P 🍴 ££

19 Marine Terrace, SY23 2AZ ***Tel*** *01970 612252* ***Rooms*** *8*

On Aberystwyth's promenade, this restaurant with rooms offers a boutique, contemporary twist to the traditional seaside boarding house. The stylish rooms boast bespoke oak furniture, designer bathrooms and stunning sea and sunset views. There is a cosy cellar bar and dining area overlooking the sea. **www.gwestycymru.com**

BRECON Cantre Selyf 🚫 ££

5 Lion St, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7AU ***Tel*** *01874 622904* ***Fax*** *01874 622315* ***Rooms*** *3*

Small, historic B&B in a 17th-century town house. This hotel is situated in Brecon's town centre. The rooms are cosy with beamed ceilings, Georgian fireplaces and cast-iron beds. Ask for a room overlooking the large walled garden and the Norman Town Wall that encloses it. **www.cantreselyf.co.uk**

BROAD HAVEN Druidstone 🍴 £££

Broad Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3NE ***Tel*** *01437 781221* ***Rooms*** *11*

Perched high above the sandy beach of Druidstone Haven, this seaside hotel offers splendid views. Accommodation here is split between en suite rooms in the main house and five, individually decorated cottages. Dining room, sitting room and cellar bar overlook the sea. Children and pets are welcome. **www.druidstone.co.uk**

CARDIFF The Big Sleep Hotel ⇅ ♿ £

Bute Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 2FE ***Tel*** *02920 636363* ***Fax*** *02920 636364* ***Rooms*** *81*

A stylish hotel at affordable prices, housed in a converted 1960s office block. The interior is self-consciously retro, but the rooms are contemporary and comfortable, with en suite amenities. Offers stunning views as far as the Severn Bridge. Highly popular with both business and leisure travellers. **www.thebigsleephotel.com**

CARDIFF St David's Hotel & Spa ⇅ 🍴 🏊 🏋 ♿ ££

Havannah St, Cardiff, CF10 5SD ***Tel*** *02920 454045* ***Fax*** *02920 313075* ***Rooms*** *132*

Overlooking Cardiff's trendy waterfront bay, this five-star hotel and spa is one of Wales's most luxurious hotels. Offers plush rooms and state-of-the-art leisure amenities. Each room has a private, deck-style balcony with views across the bay. Tailormade spa packages are available, as are conference facilities. **www.thestdavidshotel.com**

CRICKHOWELL Gliffaes Country House 🍴 ♿ £££

Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1RH ***Tel*** *01874 730371* ***Fax*** *01874 730463* ***Rooms*** *23*

Welcoming, Victorian country-house, set on expansive gardens and grouse-filled woodland. This scenic retreat is located just outside Crickhowell, on the road to Brecon Beacons National Park. It's proximity to River Usk makes it a popular destination for fly fishing enthusiasts. **www.gliffaeshotel.com**

EGLWYSFACH Ynyshir Hall 🍴 £££££

Eglwysfach, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8TA ***Tel*** *01654 781209* ***Fax*** *01654 781366* ***Rooms*** *9*

Nestled in secluded, picturesque countryside above the Dovey estuary, this 16th-century house was once owned by Queen Victoria. Its nearness to one of Britain's finest wildfowl reserves makes it a favourite with bird-watchers. The non-smoking rooms are tastefully decorated with antique furnishings. **www.ynyshirshall.co.uk**

LAKE VYRNWY Lake Vyrnwy 🍴 🏋 ♿ £££

Llanwyddyn, nr Welshpool, Powys, SY10 0LY ***Tel*** *01691 870692* ***Fax*** *01691 870259* ***Rooms*** *52*

Converted Victorian fishing lodge on the massive Vyrnwy Estate. Boasts fabulous views over mountains, untamed moorland, forests and, of course, Lake Vyrnwy itself. Has elegant rooms; some with luxuries such as jacuzzis, four-poster beds and balconies. Leisure facilities include a sauna and lakeside gym. **www.lakevyrnwy.co.uk**

LAMPETER Falcondale Mansion Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ££££

Falcondale Drive, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7RX ***Tel*** *01570 422910* ***Fax*** *01570 423559* ***Rooms*** *19*

Part of the Best Western chain of hotels, this Victorian mansion is set within a vast parkland, a short drive from the market town of Lampeter. The en suite rooms have four-poster beds and small balconies overlooking the well-tended gardens. The award-winning restaurant serves Welsh cuisine. **www.falcondalehotel.com**

LANGLAND Little Langland Hotel P 🍴 ££

2 Rotherslade Road, SA3 4QN ***Tel*** *01792 369696* ***Rooms*** *5*

A 15-minute walk from the heart of bustling Mumbles, this end-of-terrace Victorian villa is the perfect base to explore the Gower Peninsula. The bedrooms are beautifully uncluttered with white-washed walls. Guests can enjoy the likes of pan-fried wild boar with apple and cider sauce in the restaurant. **www.littlelangland.co.uk**

LAUGHARNE Seaview P 🍴 £

Market Lane, SA33 4SB ***Tel*** *01994 427030* ***Rooms*** *4*

Follow in the footsteps of T S Eliot and Arthur Miller for a sophisticated stay in the one-time home of Dylan Thomas. As well as the sweeping views over the Taf Estuary, guests will love the bright, contemporary rooms and the French-Welsh menu in this quaint Victorian house. **www.seaview-laugharne.co.uk**

LLANIGON Old Post Office £

Llanigon, Hay-on-Wye, Powys, HR3 5QA ***Tel*** *01497 820008* ***Rooms*** *3*

Small, but charming, 17th-century B&B on the edge of Brecon Beacons, just outside Hay-on-Wye. The non-smoking rooms are located beneath wood-beamed ceilings at the top of a winding oak staircase. Serves a vegetarian breakfast. **www.oldpost-office.co.uk**

LLANTHONY Llanthony Priory 🍴 £££

Llanthony, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 7NN ***Tel*** *01873 890487* ***Fax*** *01873 890844* ***Rooms*** *4*

Stunning, retreat-style B&B in a 12th-century Augustinian priory on the edge of the Black Mountains. The rooms, housed in former abbey cells, are simple, with minimal furnishings. The low ceilings add to their character and charm. Perfectly located for exploring the scenic countryside. **www.llanthonyprioryhotel.co.uk**

MILEBROOK Milebrook House 🍴 ♿ ££

Knighton, Powys, LD7 1LT ***Tel*** *01547 528632* ***Fax*** *01547 520509* ***Rooms*** *10*

A converted, stone-built Georgian house, located on the border of England and Wales. This small hotel is perfectly placed for exploring Offa's Dyke, the man-made earthwork that marks the border. The comfortable rooms and restaurant overlook some fabulous countryside. Also has a croquet lawn. **www.milebrookhouse.co.uk**

MONMOUTH The Crown at Whitebrook 🍴 £££

Near Monmouth, Monmouthshire, NP25 4TX ***Tel*** *01600 860254* ***Fax*** *01600 860607* ***Rooms*** *8*

This acclaimed restaurant-with-rooms sits in large gardens, in a tiny village on the edge of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The rooms at this 17th-century eatery are luxurious and beautifully decorated, but it is the gourmet cuisine that draws most visitors. **www.crownatwhitebrook.co.uk**

NEWPORT Cnapan Country House Hotel 🍴 ££

East St, Newport, SA42 0SY ***Tel*** *01239 820575* ***Fax*** *01239 820878* ***Rooms*** *5*

A charming and intimate country house with a cheerful and welcoming ambience. Offers spacious rooms, carefully decorated with traditional oak Welsh furnishings. Serves excellent Welsh cuisine. The service is efficient and the hotel is ideally located to explore the countryside. **www.cnapan.co.uk**

PEN-Y-CAE Craig-y-Nos Castle 🍴 ££

Brecon Rd, Pen-y-cae, Powys, SA9 1GL ***Tel*** *01639 731167* ***Fax*** *01639 731077* ***Rooms*** *26*

Located in the Brecon Beacons, this impressive castle offers a not-to-be-missed glimpse into Wales's feudal history. Houses en suite rooms; some with great views of the gardens. This popular wedding venue once belonged to the renowned opera singer, Adelina Patti. Ideal for walkers and bird-watchers. **www.craigynoscastle.co.uk**

PORTHKERRY Egerton Grey Country House Hotel 🍴 £££

Porthkerry, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF62 3BZ ***Tel*** *01446 711666* ***Fax*** *01446 711690* ***Rooms*** *9*

Refined Victorian country-house hotel boasting a vast collection of antiques. The rooms are furnished with a wealth of period furnishings, original brasswork, open fireplaces, ornate mouldings and oak panelling – even the food in the restaurant is served on antique china. The huge grounds include a croquet lawn. **www.egertongrey.co.uk**

REYNOLDSTON Fairyhill 🍴 £££

Reynoldston, Gower, Swansea, SA3 1BS ***Tel*** *01792 390139* ***Fax*** *01792 391358* ***Rooms*** *8*

Secluded country house set amid vast, mature woodlands on the Gower Peninsula Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Hosts luxurious rooms and an award-winning restaurant that serves a fusion of Welsh and European cuisine. Therapy treatments such as massages, reflexology and reiki are available on request. **www.fairyhill.net**

ST DAVID'S Lochmeyler Farm Guest House £

Pen-y-Cwm, near Solva, St David's, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6LL ***Tel*** *01348 837724* ***Rooms*** *11*

This quiet guesthouse, on a huge working dairy farm, is a popular stopping off point on the Pembrokeshire Long Distance Coast Path. The accommodation is split between the main 16th-century farmhouse, the cottages and the barn. The rooms are tastefully furnished and equipped with modern amenities. **www.lochmeyler.co.uk**

ST DAVID'S The Old Cross Hotel 🍴 ££

Cross Sq, St David's, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6SP ***Tel*** *01437 720387* ***Fax*** *01437 720394* ***Rooms*** *16*

This friendly and comfortable hotel is situated in the centre of the town, just a short walk from the famous cathedral. Bedrooms are spacious and have a good range of facilities. Public areas include comfortable lounges, a popular bar and an airy restaurant where good wholesome food is offered. **www.oldcrosshotel.co.uk**

SWANSEA Windsor Lodge 🍴 £

Mount Pleasant, Swansea, SA1 6EG ***Tel*** *01792 642158* ***Fax*** *01792 648996* ***Rooms*** *20*

Small hotel and restaurant in a 200-year-old, Grade II listed building. This two-star lodge, near the city centre, provides a reasonably priced break. The rooms are modern and comfortable, and the acclaimed restaurant draws both locals and travellers by serving British food with a French twist. **www.windsor-lodge.co.uk**

TENBY Fourcroft Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ≋ £££

North Beach, Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 8AP ***Tel*** *01834 842886* ***Fax*** *01834 842888* ***Rooms*** *40*

This charming hotel offers striking views of Tenby's sheltered North Beach and the fishing harbour. Boasts secluded trails leading down to the beach. The rooms are simple, yet comfortably furnished, with most modern amenities. The restaurant serves local produce with an emphasis on fresh seafood. **www.fourcroft-hotel.co.uk**

THE MUMBLES The Shoreline Hotel 🍴 ££

648 Mumbles Rd, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4EA ***Tel*** *01792 366322* ***Rooms*** *11*

Located on the seafront and close to local amenities, The Shoreline Hotel offers high levels of comfort. All rooms have TVs and there is a communal bar area and beautiful views across Swansea Bay. Ideally located to explore the area or play a round of golf at the course nearby. **www.shorelinehotel.co.uk**

TINTERN Parva Farmhouse Guesthouse

🍴 ££

Tintern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 6SQ ***Tel*** *01291 689411/689511* ***Rooms*** *8*

Farmhouse and restaurant on the banks of River Wye. This welcoming stone house is well placed for exploring Tintern Abbey and its surrounding countryside. The rooms offer great views over the river; some have four-poster beds. There is a guest lounge area and a restaurant with a 4 m (14 ft) high beamed fireplace. **www.parvafarmhouse.co.uk**

THE LOWLANDS

AUCHTERARDER The Gleneagles Hotel

⇅ 🍴 ≋ ▼ £££££

A9, Auchterarder, Perthshire, PH3 1NF ***Tel*** *0800 3893737* ***Fax*** *01764 662134* ***Rooms*** *266*

World-renowned château-style resort hotel with high standards of service, cuisine, and amenities. Boasts championship golf courses and state-of-the-art spa and leisure facilities. Well equipped to accommodate the most demanding of guests. Popular with both business travellers and families. **www.gleneagles.com**

BALQUHIDDER Monachyle Mhor

🍴 ££££

Balquhidder, Lochearnhead, Perthshire, FK19 8PQ ***Tel*** *01877 384622* ***Fax*** *01877 384305* ***Rooms*** *14*

A beautiful, family-run hotel situated in the heart of Highland Perthshire, near the picturesque shores of Loch Voil. Offers luxury rooms and suites, some with log fires, as well as self-catering cottages. Service is outstanding. Also has an award-winning restaurant. **www.mhor.net**

BLAIRGOWRIE Kinloch House

🍴 ≋ ££££

By Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 6SG ***Tel*** *01250 884237* ***Fax*** *01250 884333* ***Rooms*** *18*

This family-run, country-house hotel is set in a particularly scenic locale at the end of a remote lochside glen road. Has an especially warm and welcoming atmosphere. The rooms and suites are comfortable and well equipped with modern facilities. Hosts a sauna and spa, and serves good food. **www.kinlochhouse.com**

CUPAR Peat Inn

🍴 ♿ ££££

Peat Inn, by St Andrews, Fife, KY15 5LH ***Tel*** *01334 840206* ***Fax*** *01334 840530* ***Rooms*** *8*

Relaxed and informal award-winning restaurant-with-rooms. Boasts luxury suites, elegantly decorated with plush furnishings. The renowned restaurant serves mouthwatering dishes and an extensive selection of wines. Located just a short distance from St Andrews and other sightseeing attractions. **www.thepeatinn.co.uk**

EDINBURGH The Glenora Guest House

P 🍴 ££

14 Rosebery Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5JY ***Tel*** *0845 1800 045* ***Fax*** *0131 3371119* ***Rooms*** *11*

Set in a beautiful Georgian townhouse in the city centre, the Glenora offers luxurious accommodation and an excellent restaurant. The interior is modern and stylish and the award-winning restaurant serves superb organic Scottish breakfasts. Well located close to all amenities. **www.glenorahotel.co.uk**

EDINBURGH Walton Guest House

P ££

79 Dundas St, Edinburgh, EH3 6SD ***Tel*** *0131 556 1137* ***Fax*** *0131 557 8367* ***Rooms*** *10*

Located in Edinburgh's New Town, the Walton Guest House occupies a fine Georgian townhouse. The accommodation comprises compact doubles, larger triples and family rooms, all decorated to a high standard. Close to the city centre and ideal both for tourists and those on business. **www.waltonhotel.com**

EDINBURGH The Balmoral

⇅ 🍴 ≋ ▼ ♿ £££££

1 Princes St, Edinburgh, EH2 2EQ ***Tel*** *0131 556 2414* ***Fax*** *0131 557 3747* ***Rooms*** *188*

Boasting the best known address in Edinburgh, The Balmoral is favoured by those who are accustomed to the very best in life. This elegant hotel has luxurious, tastefully furnished suites and rooms, with Internet access, Fax machines, TVs, and more. Also offers conference facilities, a spa and excellent eateries. **www.thebalmoralhotel.com**

EDINBURGH The Bonham

⇅ P 🍴 ♿ £££££

35 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, EH3 7RN ***Tel*** *0131 274 7400* ***Fax*** *0131 226 6080* ***Rooms*** *48*

Ultra-smart town house, boasting a rich interior with a perfect blend of many original features and some contemporary touches, including modern works of art and furniture. The oak-panelled restaurant is popular and the cooking is skilled. Offers opulent and well-equipped rooms. **www.thebonham.com**

EDINBURGH The Scotsman

⇅ 🍴 ≋ ▼ ♿ £££££

20 N Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1YT ***Tel*** *0131 556 5565* ***Fax*** *0131 652 3652* ***Rooms*** *69*

This stylish hotel is housed in the converted former offices of *The Scotsman* newspaper, and offers great views of the city. The luxurious rooms and suites are decorated with authentic Scottish estate tweeds, and feature amenities such as DVD and CD players, TVS, Internet access, coffee makers and more. **www.thescotsmanhotel.co.uk**

EDNAM Edenwater House

🍴 ££

Ednam, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 7QL ***Tel*** *01573 224070* ***Fax*** *01573 226615* ***Rooms*** *4*

A quiet, family-run traditional guesthouse located on the edge of the village. This stone building is comfortably furnished, and offers lovely views of the surrounding Cheviot Hills. The delicious home-cooked meals, made with local produce, are accompanied by a particularly interesting wine list. Closed winter. **www.edenwaterhouse.co.uk**

GLASGOW Premier Inn £

80 Ballater St, Glasgow, G5 0TW ***Tel*** *0870 423 6452* ***Fax*** *0870 423 6453* ***Rooms*** *114*

This city-centre budget hotel offers modern, spacious and well-equipped rooms with facilities such as satellite TV, walk-in shower rooms and trouser presses. Families are well catered for here, and children under 16 stay for free. Full-Scottish breakfast is served in the trendy hotel bistro. **www.premierinn.com**

GLASGOW Blythswood Square ££

11 Blythswood Square, Glasgow, G2 4AD ***Tel*** *0141 208 2458* ***Rooms*** *93*

So much more than a hotel, the Blythswood is the latest addition to the Townhouse Company's group of hotels. This stylish establishment offers luxurious accommodation, excellent levels of service, wonderful food and a state-of-the-art spa. **www.townhousecompany.com/blythswoodsquare**

GLASGOW Radisson SAS ££

301 Argyle St, Glasgow, G2 8DL ***Tel*** *0141 204 3333* ***Fax*** *0141 204 3344* ***Rooms*** *250*

This contemporary, award-winning hotel is mainly recognized for its innovative design. Hosts lavishly furnished rooms, suites and an apartment, well-equipped with many innovative features. Also has conference rooms, a popular bar and a good restaurant. A definite choice for those who appreciate modern surroundings. **www.radisson.com**

GLASGOW Hotel du Vin at One Devonshire Gardens £££

One Devonshire Gardens, Glasgow, G12 OUX ***Tel*** *0141 339 2001* ***Fax*** *0131 337 1663* ***Rooms*** *49*

A beautiful town house, located in the city's trendy and leafy West End. The rooms have been glamorously furnished and opulently decorated, and the food in the three AA Rosettes restaurant is extremely refined. Well equipped with a high standard of service to match – a place for a serious treat. **www.hotelduvin.com**

GLENROTHES Balbirnie £££

Balbirnie Park, Markinch, Glenrothes, Fife, KY7 6NE ***Tel*** *01592 610066* ***Fax*** *01592 610529* ***Rooms*** *30*

This elegant Georgian mansion evokes an air of tastefully restrained hedonism. The hotel is family run and has been frequently recognised for its quality of service and dining. The ambience is luxurious and proves popular with corporate and leisure customers. Has opulent and comfortable rooms. **www.balbirnie.co.uk**

GULLANE Golf Inn ££

Main St, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2AB ***Tel*** *01620 843259* ***Fax*** *01620 842066* ***Rooms*** *14*

An intimate inn, set in a lovely village in East Lothian – a short drive from Edinburgh – which makes it popular for day trips. Decorated with pine furnishings and crisp colour schemes. The accommodation here is comfortable, but not too expensive, and the appetizing meals are of excellent value. **www.golfinngullane.com**

HEITON Roxburghe ££££

Heiton, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 8JZ ***Tel*** *01573 450331* ***Fax*** *01573 450611* ***Rooms*** *22*

Grand, Jacobean-style house, set in acres of beautiful estate grounds. The house is luxuriously appointed in traditional style, with comfortable rooms. This hotel is a perfect base to enjoy the scenic Borders. Offers a range of outdoor activities such as golf, fishing, mountain biking, walks and more. **www.roxburghe.net**

JEDBURGH Hundalee House £

Hundalee, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, TD8 6PA ***Tel*** *01835 863011* ***Fax*** *01835 863011* ***Rooms*** *5*

Stylish B&B in a refined, Georgian-style property, which has been tastefully maintained. The classic interior, a welcoming ambience and good home cooking offers excellent value to its guests. This part of the Borders is perfectly placed for experiencing the scenic environs. **www.accommodation-scotland.org**

LINLITHGOW Champany Inn £££

Champany, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 7LU ***Tel*** *01506 834532* ***Fax*** *01506 834302* ***Rooms*** *16*

Stylish restaurant-with-rooms. Has spacious bedrooms, with en suite facilities, tasteful and elegant furnishings, bow windows with tartan curtains, and modern amenities. Serves an excellent Scottish breakfast. Located close to several sightseeing attractions and golf courses. **www.champany.com**

LUSS The Lodge on Loch Lomond £

Luss, Argyll, G83 8PA ***Tel*** *01436 860201* ***Fax*** *01436 860203* ***Rooms*** *47*

This is a family-run hotel offering a high standard of service and facilities. Public areas and bedrooms are luxurious and comfortable, and the restaurant prides itself on the use of quality local produce. The hotel boasts a stunning location with views of Loch Lomond. **www.loch-lomond.co.uk**

MELROSE Burts Hotel ££

Market Square, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9PL ***Tel*** *01896 822285* ***Fax*** *01896 822870* ***Rooms*** *20*

Family-run, traditional hotel, carefully maintained over the years. Has a well-earned reputation, both locally and abroad. The restaurant and bar serve superb local produce in convivial surroundings. Offers a warm welcome and good service. Situated close to several golf courses. **www.burtshotel.co.uk**

MELROSE The Townhouse Hotel ££

Market Square, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9PQ ***Tel*** *01896 822645* ***Fax*** *01896 823474* ***Rooms*** *11*

A smart hotel, decorated in a sensitive, yet modern style. The owners have a long-standing reputation as welcoming hosts. The chic brasserie serves tasty contemporary cooking. A good place from which to explore this delightful corner of the Borders. **www.thetownhousemelrose.co.uk**

ST ANDREWS The Scores Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ♿ ££

76 The Scores, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9BB ***Tel*** *01334 472451* ***Fax*** *01334 473947* ***Rooms*** *30*

Popular with golfers, this hotel enjoys enviable views over the coastline of St Andrews and is centrally located to suit all pursuits in the area. Bedrooms are well appointed; some have sea views. Dining options include Alexander's Restaurant for wholesome Scottish food and the less formal Champions Grill. There is also a bar. **www.scoreshotel.co.uk**

ST ANDREWS Old Course Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ ££££

Old Station Rd, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9SP ***Tel*** *01334 474371* ***Fax*** *01334 475234* ***Rooms*** *144*

Situated just on the edge of the town, this hotel boasts splendid views of Old Course – the legendary sea-side links. Features glamorous interiors and exemplary amenities. The luxurious rooms and suites are decorated in a contemporary style. Also has specially designed rooms for disabled guests and wonderful spa facilities. **www.oldcoursehotel.co.uk**

ST BOSWELLS Dryburgh Abbey Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ £££

St Boswells, Melrose, Dumfriesshire, TD6 ORQ ***Tel*** *01835 822261* ***Fax*** *01835 823945* ***Rooms*** *38*

An imposing, red sandstone baronial mansion, located in a picturesque setting on the edge of River Tweed. The ruined abbey adjacent to the building adds to the character of the setting. Offers large rooms, and is a popular destination for weddings, conferences and other celebrations. **www.dryburgh.co.uk**

ST FILLANS Four Seasons P 🍴 ♿ ££

St Fillans, Perthshire, PH6 2NF ***Tel*** *01764 685333* ***Fax*** *01764 685444* ***Rooms*** *12*

Set in particularly stunning countryside, with a waterfront location, this small hotel has comfortable rooms, with en suite facilities and striking views of Loch Earn. Also hosts six self-catering log cabin chalets for those who want to enjoy a more intimate stay. This cosy retreat is ideal for a romantic getaway. **www.thefourseasonshotel.co.uk**

TIGHNABRUAICH An Lochan Hotel 🍴 ££

Shore Rd, Tighnabruaich, Argyll, PA21 2BE ***Tel*** *01700 811239* ***Fax*** *01700 811300* ***Rooms*** *11*

Fine, family-run hotel, set on the picturesque shore. Offers comfortable and spacious accommodation. Dining here can be on a formal or informal basis, and the quality of food and ingredients is extremely high. The service is efficient and friendly. **www.anlochan.co.uk**

TROON Highgrove House Hotel 🍴 ££

Old Loans Rd, Troon, Ayrshire, KA10 7HL ***Tel*** *01292 312511* ***Rooms*** *9*

An intimate and stylish hotel, designed by a sea captain in the 1920s, with fantastic views over the Firth of Clyde to the Isle of Arran and beyond. A popular place with golfers and for weddings, it's a haven to relax, enjoy good food and convenient for many Ayrshire attractions. **www.costleyhotels.co.uk**

TURNBERRY The Westin Turnberry Resort ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ £££££

Turnberry, Ayrshire, KA26 9LT ***Tel*** *01655 331000* ***Fax*** *01655 331706* ***Rooms*** *219*

One of the trendiest places to stay in Scotland. Boasts championship golf courses, a spa, and conference facilities. The well-appointed, en suite rooms are elegantly furnished, with modern amenities. Also has rooms with facilities for disabled guests. Allows pets. The restaurant serves excellent food. **www.turnberryresort.co.uk**

YARROW Tibbie Shiels Inn 🍴 £

St Mary's Loch, Selkirk, Selkirkshire, TD7 5LH ***Tel*** *01750 42231* ***Fax*** *01750 42302* ***Rooms*** *5*

Once a hostelry favoured by Sir Walter Scott, this 18th-century inn remains a popular place to eat and stay while in the area. Many original features of this B&B have been retained. Has simply furnished, clean rooms, as well as camping facilities. Offers good food, warm service and a genuine welcome. **www.tibbieshielsinn.com**

THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

ABEFELDY Fortingall Hotel P 🍴 £

Fortingall, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, PH15 2NQ ***Tel*** *01887 830367* ***Rooms*** *10*

This country hotel is a great example of the best that Scottish hospitality has to offer. It is located amidst stunning scenery at the foot of Glen Lyon, and comfortable sofas and roaring log fires greet guests in winter. The AA Rosette-awarded restaurant delights, with imaginative cuisine that uses local seasonal produce. **www.fortingall.com**

ABERDEEN Udny Arms P 🍴 £

Main St, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB41 6BL ***Tel*** *01358 789444* ***Fax*** *01358 789012* ***Rooms*** *28*

A comfortable, traditional hotel. The bright, cheerful bedrooms have attached bathrooms, and are decorated with antique furnishings and several modern conveniences. The public rooms are relaxing and welcoming. Located close to three championship golf courses. Also offers facilities for biking and archery. **www.oxfordhotelsandinns.com**

ABERDEEN Ardoe House Hotel ⇅ 🍴 ≋ 🏋 £££

S Deeside Rd, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, AB12 5YP ***Tel*** *01224 860660* ***Fax*** *01224 860664* ***Rooms*** *109*

Located 5 km (3 miles) from the city centre, this is one of Aberdeen's best hotels. The rooms at this luxurious retreat are lavish and tastefully decorated. The suites have four-poster beds. All rooms offer striking views of the countryside. Also has amenities such as a jacuzzi, tennis courts and beauty salons. **www.mercure-uk.com**

Key to Price Guide *see p556* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

ABERDEEN Marcliffe at Pitfodels ⇅ 🍴 🏋 ♿ ££££

N Deeside Rd, Pitfodels, Aberdeenshire, AB15 9YA ***Tel*** *01224 861000* ***Fax*** *01224 868860* ***Rooms*** *42*

Situated on the outskirts of the city, this up-market hotel has beautiful interiors and a warm and welcoming ambience. The stylish bedrooms offer en suite facilities and many other modern amenities. The conservatory restaurant is bright and airy, and the menus feature Aberdonian quality produce. **www.marcliffe.com**

ACHILTIBUIE Summer Isles P 🍴 £££

Achiltibuie, Ross-shire, IV26 2YG ***Tel*** *01854 622282* ***Rooms*** *13*

A remote and picturesque setting overlooking the Summer Isles makes this charmingly low-key place an idyllic retreat. The hotel interior is sophisticated, and houses lovely, well-appointed bedrooms. The restaurant serves food made with locally grown ingredients. Check opening timings. **www.summerisleshotel.co.uk**

APPLECROSS Applecross Inn P 🍴 ♿ ££

Applecross, Wester Ross, IV54 8LR ***Tel*** *01520 744262* ***Fax*** *01520 744400* ***Rooms*** *7*

Boasting a stunning rural location with views across the bay to Skye, this inn retains all its character and charm while offering high-quality accommodation and dining. An award-winning hotel with a warm, family atmosphere and some of the best seafood in Scotland. **www.applecross.uk.com**

ARISAIG Old Library Lodge 🍴 ££

Road to the Isles, Arisaig, Perthshire, PH39 4NH ***Tel*** *01687 450651* ***Fax*** *01687 450219* ***Rooms*** *6*

Modest and well-run restaurant-with-rooms, set on the Road to the Isles. Housed in a 200-year-old former stable, the hotel offers great views and comfortably furnished rooms. Dining here is a rich culinary experience, with five choices at each course – all beautifully prepared. Sometimes closed Nov, Dec. **www.oldlibrary.co.uk**

AULDEARN Boath House P 🍴 ♿ £££££

Auldearn, by Nairn, Inverness-shire, IV12 5TE ***Tel*** *01667 454896* ***Fax*** *01667 455469* ***Rooms*** *8*

Known as a "jewel in the Highland crown", this gorgeous mansion is a must-see attraction. The rooms are elegantly furnished with antiques, works of art and modern amenities; all offer excellent views of the estate and the gardens. Also hosts a beauty salon and spa, and serves award-winning cuisine. **www.boath-house.com**

BALLATER Darroch Learg 🍴 ♿ £££

Braemar Rd, Ballater, Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire, AB35 5UX ***Tel*** *013397 55443* ***Fax*** *013397 55252* ***Rooms*** *16*

Set on a hill in Ballater, amid attractive gardens, this charming Victorian hotel offers splendid views of Lochnagar. The accommodation is comfortable, and the cooking is highly skilled, using the best local produce. A superb wine list completes the experience. **www.darrochlearg.co.uk**

BEAULY Lovat Arms Hotel 🍴 ♿ ££

Beauly, Inverness-shire, IV4 7BS ***Tel*** *01463 782313* ***Fax*** *01463 782862* ***Rooms*** *28*

This family-run, traditional hotel is more than 200 years old. Has two popular restaurants and a bar. The rooms are en suite, equipped with modern amenities such as TVs, modem outlets, coffee makers and more. Plenty of golfing and fishing opportunities nearby. Good Scottish fare served by friendly staff. **www.lovatarms.com**

CRINAN Crinan Hotel ⇅ P 🍴 ♿ ££££

Crinan, by Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8SR ***Tel*** *01546 830261* ***Fax*** *01546 830292* ***Rooms*** *20*

A popular base from where to enjoy the panoramic views over Loch Fyne and Jura Sound. The distinctive whitewashed building accommodates a bar and restaurant, where seafood is a speciality. The bedrooms are simply, but tastefully decorated. A friendly and bustling place. **www.crinanhotel.com**

DUNKELD The Pend P 🍴 £

5 Brae St, Dunkeld, Perthshire, PH8 0BA ***Tel*** *01350 727586* ***Fax*** *01350 727173* ***Rooms*** *3*

High-quality accommodation in a quiet, Georgian town house, located just off High Street. The interiors are furnished with many antiques and period pieces. Welcomimg hosts offer the best of Scottish hospitality, and serve imaginative and superbly-prepared dishes. **www.thepend.com**

DURNESS Mackays Rooms P 🍴 £

Durness, Sutherland, IV27 4PN ***Tel*** *01971 11202* ***Rooms*** *7*

This small hotel provides comfortable accommodation in the heart of Mackay country. Rooms vary in size and facilities; the deluxe rooms have oversized, feather-topped beds and flat-screen TVs. The superb restaurant focuses on traditional Highland dishes and local seafood including Loch Eriboll crab, lobster and scallops. **www.visitmackays.com**

ERISKA Isle of Eriska Hotel 🍴 ≋ 🏋 ♿ £££££

Ledaig, by Oban, Argyll, PA37 1SD ***Tel*** *01631 720371* ***Fax*** *01631 720531* ***Rooms*** *17*

Family-run country estate, located on an island. Houses individually decorated rooms, as well as private cottages; all equipped with modern amenities. This luxurious, romantic hideaway offers several leisure facilities and elaborate dinners. Tranquil and peaceful surroundings. **www.eriska-hotel.co.uk**

FORRES Cluny Bank Hotel 🍴 £££

69 St Leonard's Rd, Forres, Moray, Inverness-shire, IV36 1DW ***Tel*** *01309 674304* ***Fax*** *01309 671400* ***Rooms*** *8*

This historic, family-run hotel is located in the quiet residential part of Forres, and retains many of its original features. The bedrooms are comfortable and tastefully decorated, while the public rooms are welcoming and airy. The friendly staff can help arrange outdoor pursuits such as golfing, fishing, cycling and more. **www.clunybankhotel.co.uk**

FORT WILLIAM Ashburn House

P ££

4 Achintore Rd, Fort William, Perthshire, PH33 6RQ ***Tel*** *01397 706000* ***Fax*** *01397 702024* ***Rooms*** *7*

This traditional, Highland B&B overlooking Loch Linnhe, extends a typical Scottish welcome. The bedrooms of this Victorian house are attractively decorated and well equipped to ensure a comfortable stay. Located a short walking distance from the town centre. Offers hearty breakfasts. **www.highland5star.co.uk**

FORT WILLIAM The Grange

£££

Grange Rd, Fort William, Perthshire, PH33 6JF ***Tel*** *01397 705516* ***Fax*** *01397 701595* ***Rooms*** *4*

This historic B&B has been skilfully and lovingly restored. Enjoys lovely views across Loch Linnhe, and is run by welcoming hosts. The interior is beautifully decorated with great attention to detail, and the rooms are individually furnished with antique beds and lavish bathrooms. Serves a generous breakfast. **www.thegrange-scotland.co.uk**

INVERGARRY Tomdoun Hotel

P 🍴 ♿ £

Invergarry, Invernesshire, PH35 4HS ***Tel*** *01809 511218* ***Rooms*** *10*

Surrounded by wonderful scenery, this remote, period hotel is the perfect rural retreat. There are no TVs or telephones in the guestrooms, and the cosy public areas are warmed by log fires. The traditional bar is stocked with over 100 malt whiskies, and the restaurant menu highlights Scotch beef, game and seafood. Dogs welcome. **www.tomdoun.com**

INVERNESS Glenmoriston Town House

🍴 £££

20 Ness Bank, Inverness, Inverness-shire, IV2 4SF ***Tel*** *01463 223777* ***Fax*** *01463 712378* ***Rooms*** *30*

A traditional town-house hotel that has been tastefully and luxuriously upgraded. The hotel overlooks the River Ness and is only minutes from the town centre. The rooms are furnished in a contemporary style, with modern amenities. Boasts an award-winning French restaurant. **www.glenmoristontownhouse.com**

ISLE OF HARRIS Leachin House

🍴 £

Tarbert, Isle of Harris, Outer Hebrides, HS3 3AH ***Tel*** *01859 502157* ***Fax*** *01859 502157* ***Rooms*** *3*

A Victorian stone building, originally the home of the father of Harris Tweed – Norman McLeod. The rooms have en suite facilities, as well as amenities such as TVs and central heating. A delightful place to stay and experience this particular corner of the Hebrides.

ISLE OF HARRIS Scarista House

P 🍴 £££

Sgarasta Bheag, Isle of Harris, HS3 3HX ***Tel*** *01859 550238* ***Fax*** *01859 550277* ***Rooms*** *5*

Set in a Georgian-style house, this hotel offers traditional comfort in well furnished, comfortable rooms, all with stunning views of the surrounding remote scenery. There is a library with an open fire and no television to disturb the peace and tranquility of the area. The hotel restaurant is excellent. **www.scaristahouse.com**

ISLE OF IONA Argyll Hotel

🍴 ££

Isle of Iona, Agryll and Bute, PA76 6SJ ***Tel*** *01681 700334* ***Fax*** *01681 700510* ***Rooms*** *16*

A relaxing retreat with views over the Sound of Iona. This traditional hotel has a comfortable and welcoming ambience, enhanced by log fires. The bright, cheerful rooms are simply decorated and furnished with modern facilities. Also boasts a sunny conservatory, and serves good food. **www.argyllhoteliona.co.uk**

ISLE OF LEWIS Galson Farm

££

S Galson, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, HS2 OSH ***Tel*** *01851 850492* ***Fax*** *01851 850492* ***Rooms*** *4*

Charming, 18th-century farmhouse on the west coast of Lewis. Offers simple, homely accommodation. This working farm is set in a beautiful location, with striking views of the surroundings. Serves good home cooking with interesting vegetarian options. Bunkhouse accommodation also available. **www.galsonfarm.co.uk**

ISLE OF SKYE Duisdale

🍴 £££

Sleat, Isle Ornsay, Isle of Skye, Inverness-shire, IV43 8QW ***Tel*** *01471 833202* ***Fax*** *01471 833404* ***Rooms*** *17*

Friendly Victorian house set on a hill, with magnificent views of the Sound of Sleat. This small hotel has been flamboyantly decorated and has lots of character. The rooms are spacious and comfortably furnished. Also offers delicious food and lovely gardens. **www.duisdale.com**

ISLE OF SKYE Flodigarry Hotel

P 🍴 £££

Flodigarry, Isle of Skye, Inverness-shire, IV51 9HZ ***Tel*** *01470 552203* ***Rooms*** *18*

This award-winning country house hotel is located in ancient woodland overlooking the sea towards mainland Scotland. The hotel occupies the former home of Scottish heroine Flora MacDonald and offers comfortably furnished rooms, all with stunning views. This is an excellent base from which to embark on outdoor activities. **www.flodigarry.co.uk**

ISLE OF SKYE Three Chimneys

P 🍴 ♿ £££££

Colbost, Dunvegan, Isle of Skye, Inverness-shire, IV55 8ZT ***Tel*** *01470 511258* ***Fax*** *01470 511358* ***Rooms*** *6*

Arguably the finest restaurant-with-rooms in Scotland, this intimate hotel is recognized for the excellence of its cooking and hospitality of the owners. Features modern and luxurious accommodation. The retreat's spectacular location makes for a memorable visit. **www.threechimneys.co.uk**

KILLIECRANKIE Killiecrankie Hotel

🍴 ♿ ££££

Killiecrankie, by Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5LE ***Tel*** *01796 473220* ***Fax*** *01796 472451* ***Rooms*** *10*

A relaxing and informal hotel, set by the scenic wooded cliffs of the Killiecrankie Pass – a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserve. The decor is stylish and bright, and the accommodation is comfortable and spacious. Known for serving good food; light meals are also available. **www.killiecrankiehotel.co.uk**

KINGUSSIE The Cross 🍴 £££££

Tweed Mill Brae, Ardbroilach Rd, Kingussie, Perthshire, PH21 1LB ***Tel*** *01540 661166* ***Fax*** *01540 661080* ***Rooms*** *8*

Highly acclaimed restaurant-with-rooms, located in a converted tweed mill near the Cairngorms. The smartly refurbished and attractively decorated interior is light and bright. An ideal base for those interested in exploring this area. Three AA Rosettes restaurant, excellent wine list and caring hosts. **www.thecross.co.uk**

LOCHINVER The Albannach 🍴 £££££

Lochinver, Sutherland, Inverness-shire, IV27 4LP ***Tel*** *01571 844407* ***Fax*** *01571 844285* ***Rooms*** *6*

Set on a hill on the outskirts of Lochinver, this small hotel is a Mecca for those who enjoy the finer things in life. Offers great views of the countryside. The cooking is quite superb, making innovative use of fresh local produce. Welcoming and hospitable owners. Three suites also available. Closed Jan, Feb. **www.thealbannach.co.uk**

LOCHRANZA Apple Lodge ▨ £

Lochranza, Isle of Arran, Bute, KA27 8HJ ***Tel*** *01770 830229* ***Fax*** *01770 830229* ***Rooms*** *4*

This charming guesthouse is an excellent base for exploring the sights of Arran. Close to the Kintyre ferry with fine views over the nearby castle. Bedrooms are prettily floral; there is also a self-contained cottage annexe. Serves good home cooking. **www.a1tourism.com/uk/applelodge2**

MUIR OF ORD The Dower House 🍴 £££

Highfield, Muir of Ord, Inverness-shire, IV6 7XN ***Tel*** *01463 870090* ***Fax*** *01463 870090* ***Rooms*** *4*

This attractive, 18th-century hotel is one of the best-kept secrets in the Highlands. Offers tastefully decorated, pleasant rooms, equipped with modern amenities. The restaurant is renowned for its appetizing home-cooked meals, which emphasize the versatility of good local produce. **www.thedowerhouse.co.uk**

MULL Tiroran House P 🍴 ♿ £££

Isle of Mull, PA69 6ES ***Tel*** *01681 705232* ***Fax*** *01681 705420* ***Rooms*** *8*

Set in a Victorian country house surrounded by beautiful gardens and stunning loch-side views, this boutique hotel provides luxury accommodation on the Isle of Mull. Rooms are all en suite, with quality furnishings; self-catering cottages are also available. Dinner comprises fresh organic produce from the hotel's own kitchen garden. **www.tiroran.com**

OBAN Manor House P 🍴 ♿ ££

Gallanach Rd, Oban, PA34 4LS ***Tel*** *01631 562087* ***Fax*** *01631 563053* ***Rooms*** *11*

Housed in a late Georgian property, the Manor House is perched on a hill overlooking Oban Bay and boasts superb views. The well-appointed rooms are all en suite, with period features sitting alongside modern amenities. A changing seasonal menu is on offer in the restaurant, and less formal lunches are available at the bar. **www.manorhouseoban.com**

ORKNEY ISLANDS Foveran 🍴 ££

St Ola, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SF ***Tel*** *01856 872389* ***Fax*** *01856 876430* ***Rooms*** *8*

A fine, family-run hotel, with splendid views over Scapa Flow. The hotel has been tastefully refurbished to a high standard, and the staff gives a true taste of Orcadian hospitality. A wonderful base for exploring these magical islands. Offers superb cooking and pleasant accommodation. **www.foveranhotel.co.uk**

PITLOCHRY Atholl Palace ⇅ P 🍴 ≋ 🍸 ♿ £££

Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5LY ***Tel*** *01796 472400* ***Fax*** *01796 473036* ***Rooms*** *106*

This grandiose hotel is an excellent example of Scottish baronial architecture. The accommodation is on a large scale with spacious bedrooms and public areas. Features a wide range of leisure and spa facilities, as well as varying dining options to suit all tastes. **www.athollpalace.com**

PLOCKTON Plockton Hotel 🍴 ♿ ££

Harbour St, Plockton, Ross-shire, IV52 8TN ***Tel*** *01599 544274* ***Fax*** *01599 544475* ***Rooms*** *15*

A comfortable and tastefully furnished hotel, set across the waterfront, with breathtaking views of the countryside. The bedrooms are stylishly simple, with en suite facilities; many overlooking the loch and the mountains. Serves good food, using fresh local produce. **www.plocktonhotel.co.uk**

STRONTIAN Kilcamb Lodge 🍴 £££££

Strontian, Argyll, PH36 4HY ***Tel*** *01967 402257* ***Fax*** *01967 402041* ***Rooms*** *10*

This elegant country house is located on the quiet Ardnamurchan peninsula. A lovely place to relax and enjoy the striking views over a winding sea loch. Welcoming hosts, excellent food and intimate ambience complete the experience. Dinner included. **www.kilcamblodge.co.uk**

TORLUNDY Inverlochy Castle 🍴 £££££

Torlundy, Fort William, Perthshire, PH33 6SN ***Tel*** *01397 702177* ***Fax*** *01397 702953* ***Rooms*** *17*

A grand, luxurious castle, set amid beautiful grounds, on the outskirts of Fort William. The interior is decorated in a traditional, classic style. Offers high standards of food, accommodation and service. Dining here is a memorable experience. Fishing, tennis and croquet facilities are also available. **www.inverlochycastlehotel.com**

ULLAPOOL Tanglewood House ▨ ££

Ullapool, Ross-shire, IV26 2TB ***Tel*** *01854 612059* ***Rooms*** *3*

This modern, highly individual house commands panoramic vistas of Loch Broom from its huge picture windows. The hotel is tastefully furnished and extremely comfortable. The hostess is a highly accomplished cook, who serves imaginative and innovative cuisine. Bring your own alcohol. **www.tanglewoodhouse.co.uk**

WHERE TO EAT

Hakkasan in central London *(see p609)*

British food need strike no terrors to the visiting gourmet's heart; the UK's restaurant scene has moved far from its once dismal reputation. Foreign chefs and cooking styles have ensured a wide range of cuisine throughout Britain, with the greatest choice in London and the other major cities. British chefs are today among the most innovative in the world, and the indigenous cooking (once thought to consist only of fish and chips, meat pies and lumpy custard) has improved out of all recognition. Whatever your budget, it is possible to eat well and at most times of day in large towns. Less elaborate, but well-prepared, affordable food is available in all types of restaurants and cafés; modern approaches combine fresh produce and dietary common sense with influences from around the world. Pub fare has perhaps undergone the greatest transformation with a wide variety of food found in all kinds of pubs. Gastropubs in particular focus on quality cuisine. The restaurant listings *(see pp608–651)* feature some of the very best places, as well as those with a steady track record.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

The choice seems endless in large cities, particularly in London. Cuisines from all over the world are represented, as well as their infinite variations – Thai, Tex-Mex, Turkish, Tuscan, Tandoori, Bhel Poori and Balti. There are many more unusual styles of cooking such as Ethiopian, Polish, Caribbean and Pacific Rim. French and Italian restaurants are still highly regarded, offering everything from pastries and espresso coffee to the highest standards of *haute cuisine*. Outside the major cities the food scene is more limited, but creative cooking can be found in the most rural areas, and more and more Rosette-awarded pubs and restaurants are popping up. The vague term "modern European cuisine" adopted by many restaurants disguises a diverse rag-bag of styles. The spectrum ranges from French to Asian recipes, loosely characterized by the imaginative use of fresh, high-quality ingredients, which are cooked simply with imaginative seasonings.

Nostalgic yearnings for British food have produced a revival of hearty traditional dishes such as steak and kidney pie and treacle pudding *(see p607),* though "Modern British" cooking adopts a lighter, more innovative approach. The distinctions between British and modern European food are starting to blur, as young chefs apply Oriental and Mediterranean flavours to home-grown ingredients. This mixing-up of flavours is referred to as "fusion" cuisine.

Bibendum, sophisticated French cuisine in London *(see p615)*

BREAKFAST

It used to be said that the best way to enjoy British food was to eat breakfast three times a day. Traditional British breakfast starts with cereal and milk followed by bacon, eggs and tomato, perhaps with fried black pudding *(see p606)* in the North and Scotland. It is finished off with toast and marmalade washed down with tea. Or you can just have black coffee and fruit juice, with a croissant or two (known as Continental breakfast in hotels). The price of breakfast is often included in hotel tariffs in Britain.

LUNCH

The most popular lunchtime foods are sandwiches, salads, baked potatoes with fillings and ploughman's lunches *(see p606)*. A traditional Sunday lunch of roast chicken, lamb or beef is served in some pubs and restaurants. Many establishments offer reasonably priced set lunches that make dining in upmarket restaurants much more affordable.

AFTERNOON TEA

No visitor should miss the experience of a proper English afternoon tea, which rivals breakfast as the most enjoyable meal of the day *(see p606)*. Some of the most palatial teas are offered by country-house and top London hotels such as the Ritz or Browns. The area that is best known for its classic "cream teas" is the West Country; these always include scones, spread with clotted cream, butter and jam. Wales, Scotland, Yorkshire and the Lake District also offer tasty teas with regional variations; in the North Country a slice of apple pie or fruit cake is served hot with a piece of North Yorkshire Wensleydale cheese on top.

An afternoon tea including sandwiches, cakes and scones

DINNER

At dinner time, the grander restaurants and hotels offer elaborately staged meals, sometimes billed as five or six courses (though one may be simply a sorbet, or coffee with *petits fours*). Taster menus, which can sometimes be up to 20 courses, are a great way to sample the best a restaurant has to offer.

Generally, you can choose to take your dinner before 6pm or after 9pm only in larger towns, where restaurants and bars often have longer opening hours. Confusingly, in the North of England and Scotland "lunch" can be called "dinner" and "dinner" may be called "tea".

Leith Docks in Edinburgh, a centre of good pubs, bars and restaurants

PLACES TO EAT

Eating venues are extremely varied, with brasseries, bistros, wine bars, tearooms, *tapas* bars and theatre cafés competing with the more conventional cafés and restaurants. Many pubs also serve excellent food, often at reasonable prices *(see pp652–5)*. Some of the finest restaurants are in grand hotels.

BRASSERIES, BISTROS AND CAFES

French-style café-brasseries are now popular in Britain. Sometimes they stay open all day, serving coffee, snacks and fairly simple dishes along with a selection of beers and wines. Alcoholic drinks, however, may only be available at certain times of day. The atmosphere is usually young and urbane, with decor to match. Drinks such as imported bottled beers, exotic spirits or cocktails may be fairly expensive.

Wine bars are similar to brasseries, but with a better selection of wines, which may include English varieties *(see p160)*. Some bars have a good range of ciders and real ales as well *(see p604)*. Bistros are another French import, serving full meals at lunch and dinner with less formality and more moderate prices than you would expect at a restaurant. You should expect to pay anything from £15 to £30 for a standard three-course meal in a bistro.

The café at Tate St Ives, Cornwall *(see p629)*

RESTAURANTS-WITH-ROOMS AND HOTELS

Restaurants-with-rooms are a new breed of small establishments with only a handful of bedrooms and usually excellent food. They tend to be expensive and are usually in a rural location.

Many hotel restaurants happily serve non-residents. They tend to be expensive, but the best can be unparalleled. Hotels serving a high standard of food are also included on pages 556–99.

RESTAURANT ETIQUETTE

As a rule of thumb, the more expensive the restaurant, the more formal the dress code – though very few restaurants expect men to wear a shirt and tie. Ring ahead to check.

A total smoking ban in public places was implemented throughout the UK in 2007. However, smoking outside is still permitted in some cases.

Raymond Blanc's Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons *(see p620),* one of Britain's most acclaimed restaurants-with-rooms

ALCOHOL

Britain's laws concerning the sale of alcohol, the "licensing laws", were once among the most restrictive in Europe. Now they are much more relaxed, with some restaurants operating extended opening hours, especially at weekends. Some establishments, however, may only serve alcohol at set times with food. Some unlicensed restaurants operate a "Bring Your Own" policy; a corkage fee is often charged. It is illegal to sell alcohol to under 18s.

VEGETARIAN FOOD

Britain is ahead of many of its European counterparts in providing vegetarian alternatives to meat dishes. Few places in this section serve only vegetarian meals, but most restaurants offer at least one vegetarian option. Vegetarians who want a wider choice should seek out South Indian and other ethnic restaurants which have a tradition of vegetarian cuisine.

FAST FOOD AND CHAIN RESTAURANTS

Fast food usually costs well under £10. Apart from the ubiquitous fish and chip shop, there are many of the usual fast food chains, as well as some more upmarket options such as Pizza Express and Yo Sushi. Other chains offering good-value, quality food, as well as facilities for children include Ask, Giraffe, Gourmet Burger Kitchen and Leon. Sandwich bars are very popular and are often good value; some also have seating. Budget cafés, nicknamed "greasy spoons", serve simple, inexpensive food, often in the form of endless variations of the breakfast fry-up *(see p606).*

BOOKING AHEAD

It is always safer to book a table first before making a special journey to a restaurant; city restaurants can be very busy, and some of the more renowned establishments can be fully booked a month in advance. Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday lunchtimes are particularly busy, and booking is essential. Famous gourmet restaurants can require a booking months in advance.

Fifteen restaurant overlooking Watergate Bay *(see p628)*

CHECKING THE BILL

All restaurants are required by law to display their current prices outside the door. These amounts include Value Added Tax (VAT), currently at 17.5 per cent. Service and cover charges (if any) are also specified.

Wine is always pricey in Britain, and extras like coffee or bottled water can be disproportionately expensive.

Service charges (usually between 10 per cent and 15 per cent) are often automatically added to your bill. If you feel that the service has been poor, you are entitled to subtract this service charge. If no service charge has been added, you are expected to add 10 to 15 per cent to the bill, but it is your decision.

Look out for additional charges: some restaurants may leave the "total" box of credit card slips blank, hoping customers will add something extra to the service charge. A few smart restaurants may also add a "cover charge" for flowers, bread and butter, etc. The majority of restaurants accept credit cards.

MEALTIMES

Breakfast is a moveable feast. It may be as early as 6:30am in a city business hotel (most hoteliers will make special arrangements if you have a plane to catch or some other reason for checking out early) or as late as 10:30am in relaxed country house establishments. Few hoteliers relish cooking bacon and eggs that late, however, and some insist you are up and about by 9am sharp if you want anything to eat. But you can find breakfast all day long in some urban restaurants. The American concept of Sunday "brunch" (a leisurely halfway house between breakfast and lunch) is becoming increasingly popular in some hotels, restaurants and cafés.

Lunch in pubs and restaurants is usually served between noon and 2:30pm. Try to arrive in time to order the main course before 1:30pm, or you may find choice restricted. Most tourist areas have plenty of cafés, fast-food diners and coffee bars where you can have a snack at any time of day. During peak hours there may be a minimum charge.

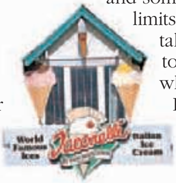
If you are lucky enough to be in one of the places where you can get a traditional afternoon tea, it is usually served between 3pm and 5pm.

Dinner is usually served from 6pm until 10pm; some places, especially ethnic restaurants, stay open later. In guest houses or small hotels, dinner may be served at a specific time. In cities, many restaurants are closed on Sunday evenings and on Mondays.

CHILDREN

The continental norm of dining out *en famille* is steadily becoming more acceptable in Britain, and visiting a restaurant may no longer entail endless searches for a babysitter. Many places welcome junior diners, and some actively encourage families, at least during the day or early evening. Formal restaurants sometimes cultivate a more adult ambience at dinner time, and some impose age limits. If you want to take young children to a restaurant, check when you book. Italian, Spanish, Indian, fast-food restaurants and ice-cream parlours nearly always welcome children, and sometimes provide special menus or high chairs for them. Even traditional English pubs, which were once a strictly adult preserve, accommodate families and may even provide special rooms or play areas.

Langan's Brassserie, a popular choice for Anglo-French cuisine *(see p610)*



Ice-cream parlour sign

The places that welcome and cater for children are indicated in both the pubs guide *(see pp652–55)* and the restaurant listings.

DISABLED ACCESS

As in most walks of life, restaurant facilities in Britain could be better for disabled visitors, but things are gradually improving. Modern premises usually take account of mobility problems, but it's always best to check first if you have special needs.

PICNICS

Eating outside is becoming more popular in Britain, though it is more likely that you will find tables outside pubs in the form of a beer garden, than outside restaurants. One inexpensive option is to make up your own picnic; most towns have good delicatessens and bakeries where you can collect provisions, and in Britain you do not usually have to worry about shops closing at mid-day as they often do on the Continent.

Look out for street markets to pick up fresh fruit and local cheeses at bargain prices. Department stores like Marks & Spencer and supermarkets such as Sainsbury's and Tesco often sell an excellent range of pre-packed sandwiches and snacks; large towns usually have several sandwich bars to choose from. Your hotel or guest house may also be able to provide a packed lunch. Ask for it the night before.

An option for a chillier day is a hot takeaway meal; fish and chips with salt and vinegar all wrapped in paper is not only a British cliché but a national institution.

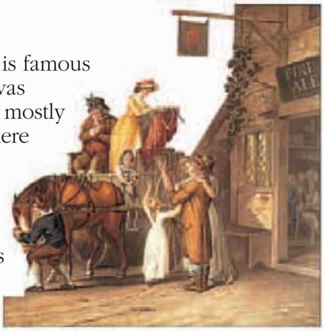
Eating alfresco at Grasmere in the Lake District

The Traditional British Pub

LUNCHEON
STOUT

Beer label c.1900

Every country has its bars, but Britain is famous for its pubs or "public houses". Ale was brewed in England in Roman times – mostly at home – and by the Middle Ages there were inns and taverns which brewed their own. The 18th century was the heyday of the coaching inn as stage coaches brought more custom. In the 19th century came railway taverns for travellers and "gin palaces" for the new industrial workers. Today, pubs come in all styles and sizes and many cater to families, serving food as well as drink *(see pp652–55).*



Early 19th-century coaching inn – also a social centre and post office

THE VICTORIAN PUB

A century ago, many pubs in towns and cities had smart interiors, to contrast with the poor housing of their clients.

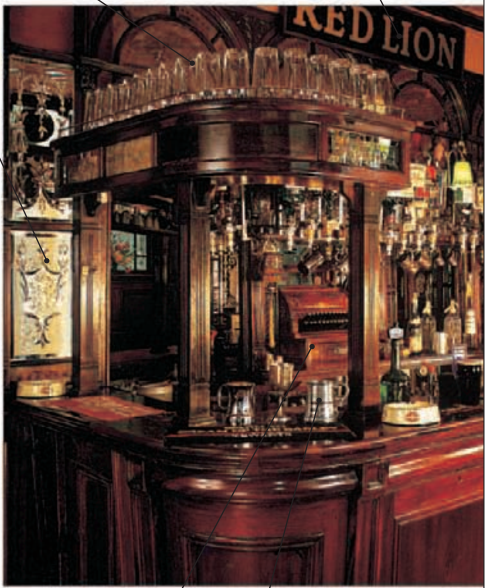
Pub games, *such as cribbage, bar billiards, pool and dominoes are part of British pub culture. Here some regular customers are competing against a rival pub's darts team.*

Beer gardens *outside pubs are a favourite venue for family summer treats.*

Pint glasses (containing just over half a litre) are used for beer.

The Red Lion pub name is derived from Scottish heraldry *(see p26).*

Elaborately etched glass is a feature of many Victorian interiors.



Old-fashioned cash register contributes to the period atmosphere of the bar.

Pewter tankards, seldom used by drinkers today, add a traditional touch.

WHAT TO DRINK

Draught bitter is the most traditional British beer. Brewed from malted barley, hops, yeast and water, and usually matured in a wooden cask, it varies from region to region. In the north of England the sweeter mild ale is popular, and lagers served in bottles or on tap are also widely drunk. Stout, made from black malt, is another variation.

CHISWICK BITTER

Beer pump

Draught bitter is drunk at cellar temperature.

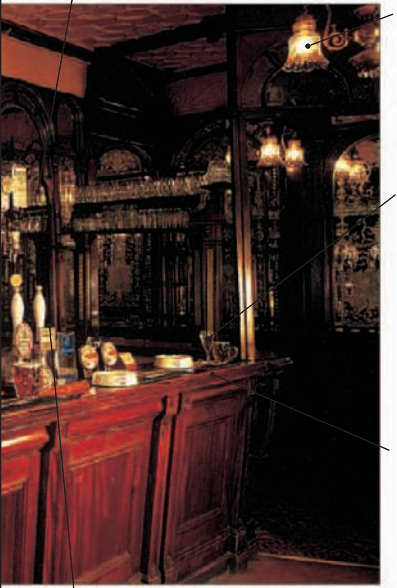
Draught lager is a light-coloured, carbonated beer.

Guinness is a thick, creamy Irish stout.

Pavement tables, crowded with city drinkers during the summer months

A village pub, offering a waterside view and serving drinks in the garden

Bottles of spirits, as well as the popular port and sherry, are ranged behind the bar.



Glass lamps imitate the Victorian style.

Wine, once rarely found in pubs, is now increasingly popular.

A deep-toned mahogany bar forms part of the traditional setting.

Draught beer, served from pumps or taps, comes from national and local brewers.

Optics dispense spirits in precise measures.

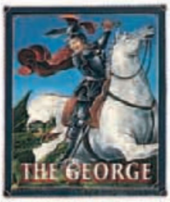
Gordon's
Gordon's

Mild may be served by the pint or in a half-pint tankard (as above).

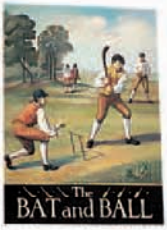
Top cocktails are gin-and-tonic (right) and Pimm's.

PUB SIGNS

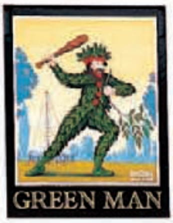
Early medieval inns used vines or evergreens as signs – the symbol of Bacchus, the Roman god of wine. Soon pubs acquired names that signalled support for monarchs or noblemen, or celebrated victories in battle. As many customers could not read, pub signs had vivid images.



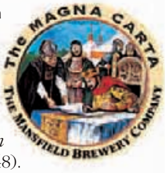
The George *may derive from one of the six English kings of that name, or, as here, from England's patron saint.*



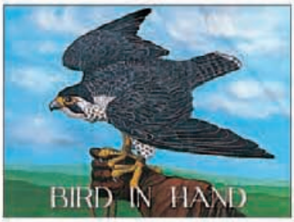
The Bat and Ball *celebrates cricket, and may be sited near a village green where the game can be played.*



The Green Man *is a woodland spirit from pagan mythology, possibly the basis for the legend of Robin Hood* (see p336).



The Magna Carta *sign commemorates and illustrates the "great charter" signed by King John in 1215* (see p48).



The Bird in Hand *refers to the ancient country sport of falconry, traditionally practised by noblemen.*

The Flavours of Britain

A rich agriculture that provides meat and dairy products such as well as fruit, vegetables and cereals, gives the British table a broad scope. Traditional dishes – cooked breakfasts, roast beef, fish and chips – are famous, but there is much more on offer, varying from region to region. Many towns give their names to produce and dishes. Seasonal choices include game and seafood, while other produce can be seen at the increasingly popular farmers' markets. Britons still have a penchant for pies and puddings, and most regions have cakes and buns they can call their own. Scotland has its own distinctive cuisine *(see p488).*

Asparagus

BUNCHED
CARROT
BEETROOT
1'00

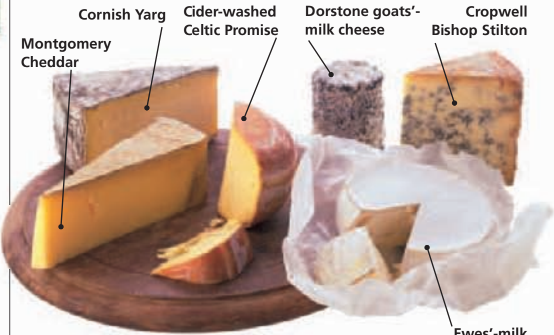
Local fresh beetroot on sale at a greengrocer's shop

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ENGLAND

All tastes are catered for in the metropolis, and the surrounding countryside has long been given over to its demands. The flat lands of East Anglia provide vegetables and root crops; the South Downs have been shorn by sheep; geese have made Nottingham famous; and the county of Kent is known as "the Garden of England" for its glorious orchards and its fields of soft fruits. From around the coast come Dover sole, Whitstable oysters (popular since Roman times) and the Cockney favourites, cockles and whelks. The game season runs from November to February, and pheasant is often on the menu.

WEST OF ENGLAND

The warmest part of England is renowned for its classic cream teas, the key ingredient provided by its dairy herds. In Cornwall, pasties have long been a staple. Once eaten by tin miners and filled with meat at one end and jam the other, to give two courses in one, they are now generally made with meat and veg-



Selection of fine, farm-produced British cheeses

TRADITIONAL BRITISH FOOD

Though many traditional dishes, such as Lancashire hotpot, beef Wellington and even fish and chips, can be harder to hunt down than tapas, pizza or chicken tikka masala, other reliable regulars remain. Among them are shepherd's pie (minced lamb with mashed potatoes), steak and kidney pie (beef and kidney in gravy baked in a pastry crust), or game pie and "bangers and mash" (sausages with mash potatoes and onion gravy). For pudding there is a variety of trifles, pies, tarts and crumbles, often eaten with custard, as well as a lighter summer pudding of seasonal fruit. A "full English breakfast" is a fry-up of sausages, eggs, bacon, tomatoes, mushrooms and bread, perhaps with black pudding or laverbread. Lunchtime snacks include a "Ploughman's lunch" of cheese and pickles with a "doorstep" of bread.

Dover sole *This is the most tasty flatfish, best served simply grilled with lemon, spinach and new potatoes.*

Display of British breads at a local farmers' market

etables. The clear waters around the peninsula offer up such seafood as sardines, mackerel and crab in abundance, and many of the region's best restaurants specialize in fish. Bath gives its name to special biscuits and buns.

NORTH OF ENGLAND

Cumberland sausage, Lancashire hotpot, Goosnargh duck and Yorkshire pudding – the names tell you exactly where the food on your plate originated. These are the staples, but restaurants these days are creating new dishes from old, such as trout with black (blood) pudding, and even being adventurous with "mushy" peas. Bradford, with its large Asian community, is the best place to eat Indian food.

WALES

The green grass of Wales is appreciated by sheep, who turn into fabulous lamb that is simply roasted and eaten with mint sauce – a favourite all over Britain. The grass is good for dairy products, too, including white, crumbly Caerphilly. Cheese is the principal ingredient of Welsh rarebit (pronounced rabbit), made with cheese grilled on toast and occasionally augmented with beer. Look out for prize-winning Welsh Black beef – prime fillets are often accompanied by horseradish sauce. The Irish Sea provides plenty of fish, but there is also freshwater trout and salmon. A curiosity of the South Wales seashore is laver, a kind of sea spinach, which is mixed with oatmeal and fried in small cakes called *bara lawr*, or laverbread, to be served with sausage and bacon for breakfast.

A Cornish fishmonger displays a locally caught red mullet

BRITISH CHEESES

Caerphilly	Fresh, white, mild cheese from Wales.
Cheshire	Crumbly, silky and full-bodied cheese.
Cheddar	Often imitated, never bettered; the best comes from the West Country.
Double Gloucester	Mellow flavoured, smooth and creamy.
Sage Derby	Flavoured with green veins of sage.
Stilton	The king of British cheeses, a strong, blue-veined cheese with a creamy texture. Popular at Christmas.
Wensleydale	Young, moist and flaky-textured, with a mild, slightly sweet flavour.

Cornish mackerel *The ideal partner for this rich fish is a piquant sauce make of English gooseberries.*

Roast beef *Horseradish sauce is a traditional accompaniment, as are crisp Yorkshire puddings made of batter.*

Welsh lamb with leeks *The leek is the national vegetable of Wales, and perfectly complements roast lamb.*

Choosing a Restaurant

The restaurants in this guide have been selected across a wide range of price categories for their good value, exceptional food and interesting location. This chart lists the restaurants by region, starting with London. It also highlights some of the factors that may influence your choice. For pub listings, see pages 652–657.

PRICE CATEGORIES
For a three-course meal for one, half a bottle of house wine, and all unavoidable extra charges such as cover, service, VAT:
£ under £20
££ £20–£35
£££ £35–£55
££££ £55–£75
£££££ over £75

LONDON

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Busaba Eathai £
106–110 Wardour St, W1F 0TR ***Tel*** *020 7255 8686* ***Map*** *11 A2*

The immense popularity of Busaba Eathai rests on its reasonably priced Thai food and efficient service. Get there early, as the queue here can be of legendary proportions after 7pm. However, be prepared to share a table whatever time you arrive. Food is good – try Thai calamari and the rose apple wok dish. One of three branches.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Bam-Bou ££
1 Percy St, W1T 1DB ***Tel*** *020 7323 9130* ***Map*** *11 A1*

A nice bar upstairs lures you in for a few drinks before you descend to the restaurant proper. Seated at a low table with just candlelight playing off dark wood, you feel a million miles from London. This is not your average Pan-Asian restaurant. The food is excellent and the atmosphere relaxed and warm. Private rooms are also available.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Café Mode 🚸 ££
57 Endell St, WC2H 9AJ ***Tel*** *020 7240 8085* ***Map*** *11 C2*

Great salads, pizzas and vegetarian dishes, and warm, friendly staff all contribute to a winning formula at Café Mode. Always great value and very popular, this restaurant is also preferred by lone diners. The little Med-inspired gem is a cool retreat from the hustle and bustle of Covent Garden.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Café Pacifico 🚸 ♿ ££
5–6 Langley St, WC2H 9JA ***Tel*** *020 7379 7728* ***Map*** *11 B2*

Café Pacifico is frequented by the young and young-at-heart. Occasional Mexican live music and a buzzy atmosphere promise a lively night, though those looking for a romantic dinner might want to stay away. A few cocktails followed by some filling and reasonably priced food will send you singing out into the street.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Elena's L'Etoile 🍷 ££
30 Charlotte St, W1T 2NA ***Tel*** *020 7636 7189* ***Map*** *11 A1*

This long-standing local eatery is extremely busy at lunchtime, with advertizing media people from surrounding ad agencies and TV companies. The time-tested menu delivers classic French bistro food under the gaze of celebrity pictures that cover the walls. It's not cheap but guarantees quality and that indefinable extra – real atmosphere.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Loch Fyne 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££
2–4 Catherine St, WC2B 5JS ***Tel*** *020 7240 4999* ***Map*** *11 C2*

At Loch Fyne, a seafood restaurant, the fish and shellfish are brought in fresh from Scotland. The wine list is suitably chosen to match the crustaceans and other edible sea creatures on offer. Portions are generous whether you choose a platter of oysters or a large plate of poached smoked haddock.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Porter's English Restaurant 🚸 ££
17 Henrietta St, WC2E 8QH ***Tel*** *020 7836 6466* ***Map*** *11 C2*

A great place for proper fish and chips, Porter's is known for serving hearty British "grub" with tasty pie dishes such as steak and Guinness, cod, salmon and prawn. Desserts are equally large and not for those on a diet. Prices are good for the location – there is a lunch deal for £22.95 –, and the staff are cheerful.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Rasa W1 🚸 ££
6 Dering Street, W1S 1AD ***Tel*** *020 7629 1346* ***Map*** *10 E2*

With seven restaurants around London, the Rasa chain are the foremost exponents – in India and abroad – of the distinctive, mainly vegetarian, cuisine of Kerala in South India. As well as some of London's most interesting vegetarian food, branches have seafood, meat and other specialities. Seasonings are more subtle and fragrant than hot.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Thai Metro ££
38 Charlotte St, W1F 2NN ***Tel*** *020 7436 4201* ***Map*** *3 A5*

Thai Metro offers top-notch Thai cuisine at affordable prices. The green curry is a must-try, but be warned about the chillies. The zingy flavours that characterize Thai food are all here in abundance. If the weather is warm, you can enjoy your food in the fresh air. Service is brisk, which may not be ideal for a relaxed meal. Good lunch deals.

Key to Symbols *see back cover flap*

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER The Ebury 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

11 Pimlico Rd, SW1W 8NA ***Tel*** *020 7730 6784* ***Map*** *18 D2*

Diners come to this sleek restaurant housed in a converted pub to enjoy a varied modern European menu with British and Mediterranean accents. First-rate ingredients are used in dishes such as ricotta and herb gnocchi, and slow-cooked pork belly with Parmesan polenta. The dining room is bright and airy, exuding understated elegance.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Vasco & Piero's Pavilion ££

15 Poland St, W1F 8QE ***Tel*** *020 7437 8774* ***Map*** *11 A2*

Of Umbrian heritage, the owner of this restaurant ensures that chickpeas and lentils feature frequently on the largely Italian menu which changes twice daily. The pasta is made in-house, with the finest quality ingredients. The truffles, particularly, make the place worth a visit. In season, black or white truffles are imported from Umbria.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Zilli Green 🧒 🍷 ££

41 Dean St, W1D 4PY ***Tel*** *020 7734 3924* ***Map*** *11 A2*

The owner of this eponymous restaurant is often in attendance, adding a special touch to the place. The Italian food is first rate, if sometimes unadventurous, and the atmosphere is always inviting. The prices are a little steep, but worth it for the large, hearty portions. Closed on Sundays.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Atrium 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

4 Millbank, SW1P 3JA ***Tel*** *020 7233 0032* ***Map*** *19 B1*

Bright and modern Atrium has a vast glass-covered space. The well-priced menu changes with the seasons, but always mixes and matches ingredients to wonderful effect, as witnessed in dishes such as seared scallops with Provençal tomatoes; roast monkfish, tomato, olive and fennel stew; or pan-fried guinea fowl with chickpea hot pot.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Belgo Centraal 🧒 ♿ £££

50 Earlham St, WC2H 9LJ ***Tel*** *020 7813 2233* ***Map*** *11 B2*

Nice and handy for Neal Street, Belgo Centraal remains popular every night. The cool young staff whip up a great variety of Belgian cuisine, from *moules marinières* to more exotic creations featuring Belgium's famous beers. Meat-eaters are also catered for. Eat at the long refectory tables and enjoy the fun.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Bertorelli ♿ 🍷 £££

44A Floral St, WC2E 9DA ***Tel*** *020 7836 3969* ***Map*** *11 C2*

An Italian institution in Covent Garden, Bertorelli's Roman empire now extends further afield. This is the flagship, though, not the one you may have seen in the film *Sliding Doors*. Freshly prepared and flavourful home cooking is served in a friendly ambience. Sensible prices are an extra bonus.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Hakkasan 🧒 ♿ 👔 🍷 £££

8 Hanway Place, W1T 14B ***Tel*** *020 7927 7000* ***Map*** *11 A1*

A very expensive Chinese restaurant, Hakkasan has maintained a consistently high turnover. The decor is superbly stylish and the food even more so. No windows mean you can't peer in to check it out before entering. Though busy, it's a great choice for gourmets who can afford it. Don't miss the dim sums.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Il Convivio ⛱ 🍷 £££

143 Ebury St, SW1W 9QN ***Tel*** *0872 148 3470*

Set within a beautiful Georgian town house, this Italian restaurant has a conservatory with a retractable roof that offers an outdoor dining experience throughout the summer. Fare includes seared diver scallops with Catalonian chicory pasta and a great choice of desserts. For a more modest meal, choose from the great value fixed-price menus. Closed Sun.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Just St James ♿ 🍷 £££

12 St James St, SW1A 1ER ***Tel*** *020 7976 2222* ***Map*** *10 F4*

With plush surroundings, as befits a restaurant in St James, this impressive place was built from a former Edwardian banking hall. The high-class cooking constantly surprises with its far-reaching, but not overambitious, choices. Strong modern British favourites sit alongside dishes of more global provenance on the frequently-changing menu.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER L'Escargot Marco Pierre White 🍷 £££

48 Greek St, W1D 4EF ***Tel*** *020 7437 6828* ***Map*** *11 A1*

Another Soho institution, this restaurant is now run by Marco Pierre White, a legendary chef. Expect high standards but be surprised by the very reasonable prices. In the Picasso Room you can look at some of the master's works while eating artistically crafted fine food. Try the parfait of foi gras *en gelée* with toasted Poilane. Closed on Sundays.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Momo ♫ ♿ £££

25 Heddon Street, W1B 4BH ***Tel*** *020 7434 4040* ***Map*** *10 F2*

Popular ever since it opened in 1995, Momo gave a newly fashionable appeal to North African food. Classic tagines and couscous, as well as less familiar dishes, are infused with fresh flavours of cumin, mint and coriander, amid decor that stylishly evokes old Marrakech. There's great live music in the bar every Tuesday.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Palm Court Brasserie 🧒 🍷 £££

39 King St, WC2E 8JS ***Tel*** *020 7240 2939* ***Map*** *11 C2*

A good location and a sophisticated interior make Palm Court Brasserie a firm favourite with the locals. Mediterranean flavours are well infused with the southern sunshine. Sharing platters are good fun and great value, while a roast rump of lamb is quite filling. There are special pre-theatre and mid-week deals, too. Reservations strongly recommended.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Sofra £££

36 Tavistock St, WC2E 7PB ***Tel*** *020 7240 3773* ***Map*** *11 C2*

A reputed London institution, Sofra has been serving superior Turkish food for many years. The speciality is the healthy option involving a variety of little dishes to share. Bread and olives come free throughout the meal, while dips such as hummous and *tzatziki* always taste fresh and clean.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER The Gaucho Grill £££

125–126 Chancery Lane, WC2A 1PU ***Tel*** *020 7242 7727* ***Map*** *12 E1*

There are a few of branches of the Gaucho around London and they remain of consistent value. The star attraction is still its delicious steak. A large wine list helps wash down an enormous meal and the cocktails are good too. Ideal for a pleasant, no-frills dining, it's a well-priced place in a reasonably expensive area. Closed Sundays.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER The Wolseley £££

160 Piccadilly, W1J 9EB ***Tel*** *020 7499 6996* ***Map*** *10 F3*

London never had many 19th-century "grand cafés", but in 2003 this fine Piccadilly building was made into a great modern equivalent. Chandeliers hanging from lofty ceilings aid the glamorous, buzzing atmosphere. Menus offer plenty of variety, from salads to grills and seafood. Also open daily for breakfast and afternoon tea.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Indigo ££££

1 Aldwych, WC2B 4B2 ***Tel*** *020 7300 0400* ***Map*** *12 D2*

This stylish restaurant offers an eclectic mix of modern European and International dishes, all beautifully presented. Enjoy a drink in the Grand Bar upstairs before descending in the lift to the plush dining room. Plenty of choice for all tastes and a useful "mix and match" salad and pasta course. On Sundays, they have a brunch-and-movie deal.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER J Sheekey ££££

28–34 St Martin's Court, WC2N 4AL ***Tel*** *020 7240 2565* ***Map*** *11 B2*

Sheekey's fish restaurant first opened near Leicester Square in 1896. It was sadly neglected for years, but since its revamp by the Caprice group its wonderful Victorian interior is again thronged with Theatreland crowds. British fish classics – a celebrated fish pie – are finely done, and the catch-of-the-day fish are superb. There is also an oyster bar.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Langan's Brasserie ££££

Stratton St, W1J 8LB ***Tel*** *020 7491 8822* ***Map*** *10 F3*

The original and perhaps still the best in this chain of restaurants, Langan's faithfully adheres to the style of its late eponymous owner. Service is discreetly attentive and the staff are friendly. Try and get a table downstairs where they serve soufflé with anchovy sauce. Try the house speciality, Langan's bangers and mash with white onion sauce.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Rules ££££

35 Maiden Lane, WC2E 7LB ***Tel*** *020 7836 5314* ***Map*** *11 C2*

London's oldest restaurant, opened in 1798, has kept its fascinating decor and its standards as a temple of fine British cooking. The roast beef is definitive, served with fabulous horseradish sauce. Game, fresh from Rules' own hunting estate, is also a speciality. Upstairs are wonderfully Dickensian private rooms.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER The Criterion ££££

224 Piccadilly, W1J 9HP ***Tel*** *020 7930 0488* ***Map*** *11 A3*

The giant Criterion is a monument of a restaurant, right on Piccadilly Circus. Dating from the 1870s, it has fabulous Arabian-fantasy decor with a glittering mosaic ceiling; there are few more impressive places to sit and escape the city outside. On the menu is adventurous Franco-British cuisine. There is also a fine wine list.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Umu ££££

14–16 Bruton Place, W1J 6L ***Tel*** *020 7499 8881* ***Map*** *10 E3*

Seriously expensive but extremely stylish, the Michelin-starred Umu offers a beautiful interior, traditional Kyoto cuisine and friendly service by great staff. With a remarkable sake list, this is one of the few places in London where you can find genuine Japanese *kaiseki*. There's also a good, though expensive, tasting menu. Closed 24 Dec–7 Jan.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Wilton's ££££

55 Jermyn St, SW1Y 6LX ***Tel*** *020 7629 9955* ***Map*** *11 A3*

A landmark institution, there has been a Wilton's in London since 1742. A quintessential expensive club-dining experience. Morecambe Bay potted shrimps, grilled Dover sole, Scottish lobster thermidor and West Mersey Oysters are the main attractions here, but you will also want to bask in the atmosphere and in the attentive and well-mannered service.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Christopher's American Grill £££££

18 Wellington St, WC2E 7DD ***Tel*** *020 7240 4222* ***Map*** *11 C2*

Rather more formal than you might expect from an American restaurant, but then this is a superior establishment. There are plenty of American favourites to choose from, including delicious ham hocks, large steaks and excellent lobsters. There is a Martini bar on the ground floor, and views over Waterloo Bridge from the upstairs restaurant.

WEST END AND WESTMINSTER Hélène Darroze at the Connaught £££££

Connaught Hotel, Carlos Place, W1K 2AL ***Tel*** *020 3147 7200* ***Map*** *10 E3*

The Connaught Hotel's restaurants have enjoyed an august reputation since the hotel opened in the early 1900s. Since 2007 the Connaught has hit a new high under renowned French chef Hélène Darroze. Her cooking is hugely inventive, blending French traditions with rare, intricate spicings. Dinner prices are high, but there is a more accessible lunch menu.

Key to Price Guide *see p608* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Island Restaurant & Bar 🧒 ♿ £££

Royal Lancaster Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, W2 2TY ***Tel*** *020 7551 6070* ***Map*** *8 F2*

The Island Restaurant's location in a hotel on a busy junction can seem unexciting, but inside it's a bright contemporary bar-brasserie with friendly, fast-moving staff. Menus feature an enjoyable mix of modern European dishes, from steaks to fresh seafood, plus salads, pasta and child-friendly options.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Racine £££

239 Brompton Rd, SW3 2EP ***Tel*** *020 7584 4477* ***Map*** *17 B1*

Racine sets out to showcase French cuisine and succeeds very well. Genuine French food, French waiters and great atmosphere all combine to keep locals coming back for more. The venison, when in season, is excellent and the menu changes regularly. The service is good.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Whits 🍷 £££

21 Abingdon Road, W8 6AH ***Tel*** *020 7938 1122* ***Map*** *15 C1*

A neighbourhood restaurant on a side lane off busy High Street Kensington. Because of its position it does not attract the masses. Try the house special, King & Queen Scallop Risotto, or the roast duck confit. Other mains include pork with crackling or Elwy lamb. Food is consistently good and very seasonal, but always very affordable.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Amaya ♿ ££££

15 Halkin Arcade, off Motcomb Street, SW1 8JT ***Tel*** *020 7823 1166* ***Map*** *10 D5*

A very distinguished Indian restaurant, Amaya is spacious, stylish and with the kitchen on honest display. Specializing in grills, it has three stations – tandoori, sigra and tawa – in action all evening. The range of meats and vegetables is brilliant and the presentation and service faultless. Though it is expensive, it's worth dining here.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Cambio de Tercio 🍷 ££££

163 Old Brompton Rd, SW5 0LJ ***Tel*** *020 7244 8970* ***Map*** *16 F2*

This unmistakably Spanish restaurant offers traditional Spanish cuisine such as plump king prawns cooked with chilli and garlic. Most of the ingredients are brought over from Spain and the wine list consists entirely of Spanish wines. It was once voted "best Spanish restaurant outside of Spain" by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Fifth Floor at Harvey Nichols 🧒 ♿ ⛱ 🍷 ££££

Harvey Nichols, Knightsbrige, SW1X 7RJ ***Tel*** *020 7235 5250* ***Map*** *9 C5*

Harvey Nichols is a favourite among London's big stores, and its top-floor restaurant has a special verve. Lunch and dinner menus are a set price, and all offer intricate, delicious modern cuisine and extravagantly subtle desserts. The adjacent café has a snack menu and an outside terrace.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK L'Étranger 🧒 🍷 ££££

36 Gloucester Rd, SW7 4QT ***Tel*** *020 7584 1118* ***Map*** *16 E1*

L'Étranger is a gem of a place serving extremely good French-Asian fusion food in very stylish surroundings. People rave about the caramelized black cod with miso and with good reason. Every dish on the menu is delectable and there's a massive wine list that has been created with passion and love. You can dance in the club downstairs.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Nahm 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

The Halkin Hotel, 5 Halkin St, SW1X 7DJ ***Tel*** *020 7333 1234* ***Map*** *10 D5*

This remarkable Thai restaurant has a Michelin star so you can arrive with high expectations. The set menu doesn't disappoint. A recommended appetizer is *ma hor* (minced prawns and chicken simmered in palm sugar with deep fried shallots, garlic and peanuts, served on pineapple and mandarin orange). Not cheap but worth the price.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Le Gavroche 👔 🍷 £££££

43 Upper Brook Street, W1K 7QR ***Tel*** *020 7408 0881* ***Map*** *10 D2*

First opened by brothers Michel and Albert Roux in 1967, Le Gavroche has long set the benchmark for fine dining in London. Michel Roux Jr is now in charge, aided by English chef Rachel Humphrey, but the restaurant remains true to its traditions of timeless luxury and superb French-based haute cuisine. A majestic wine list and superb service.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Nobu 🧒 ♿ 👔 £££££

Metropolitan Hotel, 19 Old Park Lane, W1K 1LB ***Tel*** *020 7447 4747* ***Map*** *10 E4*

London's sleekest, hippest Japanese restaurant was the first European showcase for acclaimed chef Nobu Matsushita. Famous for celebrity diners, it's also a landmark for quality: fresh fish and seafood are supreme, and modern Japanese dishes are prepared with immense skill and panache.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Tom Aikens ♿ 🍷 £££££

43 Elystan St, SW3 3NT ***Tel*** *020 7584 2003* ***Map*** *17 B2*

Chef Aikens is the twinkliest star in the cooking firmament with other chefs praising his cooking no end. That said, some people find the cuisine a touch rich but everyone loves the experience. Dishes are lovingly constructed and beautifully plated with flavours finely balanced with a watchmaker's care. Very popular so book ahead.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Zafferano 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££££

5 Lowndes St, SW1X 9EY ***Tel*** *020 7235 5800* ***Map*** *18 D1*

Zafferano has long been recognized as one of the capital's premier Italian restaurants. It's a discreet place, where the emphasis is firmly on the food. Dishes such as risotto with white wine truffle and char-grilled lamb with aubergine (eggplant) allow the quality of the ingredients to shine through.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND HYDE PARK Zuma 🚸 ♿ £££££

5 Raphael St, SW7 1DL ***Tel*** *020 7584 1010* ***Map*** *9 C5*

Zuma is a very fashionable restaurant, right opposite Harrods. Celebrities can be spotted here but they come for the great food just like everyone else. Great sashimi, *nigiri*, sushi and tempura with fancy service and fancy prices. It's definitely an experience, but be prepared to dig deep into your pocket.

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Caffe Caldesi 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££

118 Marylebone Lane, W1U 2QF ***Tel*** *020 7935 1144* ***Map*** *10 D1*

This airy Italian restaurant offers classic dishes and a very reasonable wine list, with a slightly more formal dining space upstairs. Sit down to a traditional home-cooked dinner. Try the fresh ravioli stuffed with beetroot and ricotta with sage and butter sauce. There is also a patisserie, a delicatessen and a bar.

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Fino 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££

33 Charlotte Street (entrance on Rathbone Street), W1T 1RR ***Tel*** *020 7813 8010* ***Map*** *11 A1*

A smart, comfortable variation on the Spanish tapas bar in a bright basement north of Oxford Street. The menu consists of refined, imaginative presentations of traditional Spanish tapas. The wine list features great modern Spanish wines, and an especially good choice of fine sherries.

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Ishtar 🚸 ♫ ££

10–12 Crawford St, W1U 6AZ ***Tel*** *020 7224 2446* ***Map*** *1 C5*

Modern Turkish, so no exotic dancers and no photos of the Istanbul landmarks, either. You can dine on two levels, including under some romantic cellar arches and the dishes are familiar but updated. Go for pan-fried sea bass with potatoes and saffron sauce or some well-marinated kebabs. Leave room for some pastries too.

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Queen's Head & Artichoke 🚸 ⛱ 🍷 ££

30–32 Albany Street, NW1 4EA ***Tel*** *020 7916 6206* ***Map*** *2 E4*

Handily located near Regent's Park and Euston station, this friendly gastropub is rightly popular. Sit outside on the terrace or inside in a bustling, wood-panelled Victorian bar or quieter dining room. The fare includes Mediterranean-inspired tapas, steaks, seafood and other dishes made from high-quality ingredients. Good wine selection too.

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Galvin Bistrot de Luxe 🚸 ♿ ⛱ 🍷 £££

66 Baker Street, W1U 7DJ ***Tel*** *020 7935 4007* ***Map*** *1 C5*

Brothers Chris and Jeff Galvin run their four restaurants with a blend of originality and thorough French culinary training. The Baker Street branch has the look of a classic Paris bistro, along with a menu of flavour-rich, robust but sophisticated dishes, including wonderful versions of classics like confit of duck. Lunchtime menus are a bargain.

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Locanda Locatelli 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££££

8 Seymour Street, W1H 7JZ ***Tel*** *020 7935 9088* ***Map*** *9 C2*

Giorgio Locatelli is a star among London chefs, producing some of the city's most refined Italian cuisine. Seasonally based menus change frequently, and subtle use of Mediterranean herbs and truffles is a hallmark. The dining room is elegant, the service is smooth, and every detail is given its due attention. Reserve well ahead.

REGENT'S PARK AND BLOOMSBURY Michael Moore 🍷 £££££

19 Blandford St, W1U 3DH ***Tel*** *020 7224 1898* ***Map*** *10 D1*

This popular restaurant mixes excellent food with a genuinely friendly ambience. Michael Moore (no relation to the American film-maker) is there virtually every night and tours the tables for a chat. A very accomplished chef, he changes his menu regularly and keeps his regulars flocking back for more. Special lunch deals are available.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Leon 🚸 ♿ £

86 Cannon Street, EC4N 6HT ***Tel*** *020 7623 9699* ***Map*** *13 B2*

The Leon chain hits the spot with its bright, modern cafés. Choose from a range of mostly Mediterranean-inspired dishes such as grilled halloumi, "superfood" salads, fresh soups and more. Drinks include beers, wines and fresh juices. This is one of nine branches around London. It's open for breakfast, and you can eat in or take away.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Baltic 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££

74 Blackfriars Rd, SE1 8HA ***Tel*** *020 7928 1111* ***Map*** *12 F4*

Located inside a former coach house with exciting high ceilings, Baltic exudes charm. The eastern European influence is noticeable in Baltic's beetroot and vodka cured salmon. There's a massive range of vodkas and the food constantly surprises with dishes such as roast saddle of wild boar.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Bengal Cuisine 🚸 ££

12 Brick Lane, E1 6RF ***Tel*** *020 7377 8405* ***Map*** *6 E5*

Just about every building in Brick Lane is an Indian restaurant, but the quality varies. Bengal Cuisine is certainly a lot more modern than most of them. The food is very good value and the cook goes easy on the chilli to suit the Western palate. Staff are happy to advise on dishes if asked. There's a good Sunday buffet as well.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Mar I Terra ♿ ££

14 Gambia St, Waterloo, SE1 0XH ***Tel*** *020 7928 7628* ***Map*** *12 F4*

Described as a little gem by its fans, this local Spanish restaurant has also been steadily building custom. The quality of the ingredients is one of its secrets as is its location off the main drag. This means the diners are discerning gourmets who have come for the food and the cheerful atmosphere.

Key to Price Guide *see p608* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Rajasthan ♿ ££

49 Monument St, Monument, EC3R 8BU ***Tel*** *020 7626 1920* ***Map*** *13 C3*

Rajasthan is bright and airy, with fresh flowers on show and not a Bengal tiger or Taj Mahal in sight. The staff are happy to help you avoid the usual curry cliché dishes, but are equally happy to give you chicken tikka masala if that's what you require. Or try something extra special such as a whole poussin. Closed Sundays.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Story Deli 🧒 ££

5 Dray Walk, The Old Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane, E1 6QL ***Tel*** *020 7247 3137*

The menu at this refreshing, organic pizzeria and café uses innovative ingredients, ranging from prawns to pumpkin, to top its tasty, thin-crust pizzas. A great alternative lunch option, with fresh juices and soups as well as tea, coffee and wine. Very popular so bag a seat early. Open daily until 10:30pm.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Tapas Brindisa 🧒 ♿ ⛱ 🍷 ££

18–20 Southwark Street, SE1 1TJ ***Tel*** *020 7357 8880* ***Map*** *13 B4*

The Brindisa company, based in the adjacent Borough Market, has led the way in importing fine Spanish foods into the UK – superb Serrano hams, peppers and more. Their tapas bar showcases these delights in fabulous small dishes prepared with as much skill as grand cuisine. Very popular, so you may have to wait for a table.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Eyre Brothers ♿ 🍷 £££

70 Leonard Street, EC2A 4QX ***Tel*** *020 7613 5346* ***Map*** *5 C4*

This elegantly comfortable Shoreditch bistro oozes panache in its design, service and exceptional food. The brothers who own it are much travelled, and menus are predominantly Spanish- or Portuguese-based, with many original touches. The meats are superb, and the mostly Iberian wine list is equally good. Great tapas at the bar.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Haz 🧒 ♿ £££

9 Cutler St, E1 7DJ ***Tel*** *020 7929 7923* ***Map*** *14 D1*

Lively, fun and a little posh too, this is a true touch of Turkey in the city. Go for a mixed *meze* starter. They just keep coming and they're all delicious. Go for the well-marinated meat dishes and kebabs and mop up the juice with the lovely flat bread. The office workers throng into Haz at lunchtime so get here before noon.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK St John 🧒 🍷 £££

26 St John Street, EC1M 4AY ***Tel*** *020 7251 0848* ***Map*** *4 F5*

Under its founder-chef Fergus Henderson, St John has been a leader in the revival of British food. It's known particularly for its quality meats – not just fabulous beef, but also half-forgotten, gutsy old favourites such as pig's feet and braised mutton. Dishes are richly flavoured, and excellent value. The freshly baked bread is worth the visit by itself.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK The Chancery 🧒 ♿ 👔 🍷 £££

9 Cursitor St, EC4A 1LL ***Tel*** *020 7831 4000* ***Map*** *12 E1*

This little gem is a stylish new-wave restaurant tucked away down a side street. The well-cooked food is adventurous, modern and very reasonably priced. Try the parfait of foie gras and chicken livers, quince chutney and toasted brioche, or peppered monkfish tail, sweetcorn and pancetta chowder.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK The Don 🍷 £££

The Courtyard, 20 St Swithin's Lane, EC4N 8AD ***Tel*** *020 7626 2606* ***Map*** *13 B2*

This used to be a wine warehouse so it's no surprise that it has an excellent winelist. It also has very attentive staff, who go out of their way to be helpful. A good sommelier and a range of interesting and unique dishes make this a very popular restaurant indeed and reservations are pretty much obligatory. Closed Sundays.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Moro 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

34–36 Exmouth Market, EC1R 4QE ***Tel*** *020 7833 8336* ***Map*** *4 E4*

Moro is well known for its Spanish-Moroccan cuisine and serves up consistently good food to regulars. Courgette (zucchini) and mint tortilla is an example of light, flavoursome food and there are some very good breads. Buy ingredients next door and take their famous cookbook home with you.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Oxo Tower Restaurant, Bar & Brasserie 🧒 ♫ ♿ ⛱ 🍷 ££££

Barge House Street, SE1 9PH ***Tel*** *020 7803 3888* ***Map*** *12 E3*

The top floor of the Oxo building (once a factory producing Oxo stock cubes) enjoys one of London's finest riverside views. Run by Harvey Nichols, the brasserie and slightly smarter restaurant both offer deliciously subtle modern food. Prices can be high (especially for wines), but the view makes a meal here something special.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK Tentazioni 🧒 👔 ££££

2 Mill St, SE1 2BD ***Tel*** *020 7237 1100* ***Map*** *14 E5*

Although a bit more expensive than the average Italian eatery, Tentazioni matches the price with its very high standards. Excellent food is on offer and the five-course tasting menu is a delight, especially at the very reasonable price. A busy and friendly restaurant that's well worth making the walk from Tower Bridge. Closed Sundays.

THE CITY AND SOUTHWARK The Lobster Pot 🧒 ♫ ££££

3 Kennington Lane, SE11 4RG ***Tel*** *020 7582 5556* ***Map*** *20 F2*

The French owners set out to recreate Brittany (even down to seagull soundtracks) and succeed brilliantly. The eight-course "surprise" menu is fantastic, and the fish is always superbly fresh. Do book in advance, as it's not very big. Downstairs is a brasserie serving classic French fare at slightly lower prices, and there is a wine bar upstairs. Closed Sun, Mon.

FURTHER AFIELD Base ££

71 Hampstead High St, NW3 1QP ***Tel*** *020 7431 2224*

During the day, Base is a gourmet bar serving Mediterranean cuisine. In the evening it becomes a bistro serving sumptuous Mediterranean fusion food with an emphasis on fresh ingredients. The menu changes regularly and is complemented by an extensive wine list. Another branch is located at 195 Baker Street.

FURTHER AFIELD Brown's West India Quay ££

Hertsmere Road, E14 8JJ ***Tel*** *020 7987 9777*

The Brown's empire began in Brighton and is now established throughout the country. The main draw is its solid British cooking while the decor – dark wooden café chairs, palms and ceiling fans – create a colonial feel. Al fresco dining is possible in this former sugar warehouse near Canary Wharf.

FURTHER AFIELD Cibo ££

3 Russell Gardens, W14 8EZ ***Tel*** *020 7371 6271* ***Map*** *7 A5*

Cibo has been around long enough to become a dependable local institution. Its clever mix of tried and trusted northern Italian favourites, combined with more adventurous dishes, never fails to satisfy its young crowd. There's plenty of bread and olives to savour while waiting at the table. The wine list matches the restaurant's high quality.

FURTHER AFIELD Haché Burger ££

329–331 Fulham Rd, SW10 9QL ***Tel*** *020 7823 3515* ***Map*** *16 F4*

This chic, modern "bespoke" hamburger place is popular with cinema-goers and posh teenagers. Gourmet burgers are served on a fresh ciabatta bun with rocket, tomato, sweet red onion and the special Haché mayonnaise. Choose from a range of beef, lamb, venison, chicken, fish, duck or veggie burgers.

FURTHER AFIELD Manna ££

4 Erskine Road, Primrose Hill, NW3 3AJ ***Tel*** *020 7722 8028*

Open since the 1960s, Manna is heaven for many London vegetarians. In place of the tired "meat-free" choices of many veggie cafés, it has a ground-up approach to vegetarian cooking, producing dishes full of tantalizing flavours. Choices include root vegetable masala, tempura mushrooms, exciting salads and good desserts.

FURTHER AFIELD Mezedepolio ££

14–15 Hoxton Market, N1 6HG ***Tel*** *020 7739 8212* ***Map*** *5 C3*

Join the crowd at Mezedepolio and choose from a massive selection of Greek dishes. The home-style cooking is unique, and many of the dishes on the menu have never been seen in the country before. They're all very tempting but be warned to keep an eye on the prices. The Real Greek wine bar serves Greek wines as well.

FURTHER AFIELD Mosob ££

339 Harrow Rd, W9 3RB ***Tel*** *020 7266 2012*

Located a short walk from Westbourne Park tube, this family-run restaurant serves Eritrean food in a colourful dining room decorated with African-flavoured furnishings. All dishes on the menu are served with *injera*, a typically Eritrean bread that also doubles as an eating utensil. The vegetarian menu is 100 per cent vegan.

FURTHER AFIELD North Pole ££

131 Greenwich High Rd, SE10 8JA ***Tel*** *020 8853 3020*

A little Greenwich gem, North Pole is comfortably warm with a nice bar downstairs and a fire in the grate upstairs. A small piano tinkles away in the background. Traditional Sunday roasts of beef or chicken are available with all the trimmings but whatever the choice, the food is of a very high standard.

FURTHER AFIELD The Lane Restaurant ££

12–20 Osborn St, E1 6TE ***Tel*** *020 7247 7577* ***Map*** *14 E1*

Located at the south end of famous Brick Lane, but not an Indian restaurant. It's actually a rather cool and trendy place doing a variety of dishes at very reasonable prices. The cocktail bar is nice too. It's in an up-and-coming area, so you may find yourself surrounded by young people with cool clothes and a disposable income.

FURTHER AFIELD The Spread Eagle ££

1–2 Stockwell St, SE10 9JN ***Tel*** *020 8853 2333*

Fiercely championed by locals, this place radiates confidence with its innovative French cuisine. Small, intimate booths to dine in and a real, roaring fire in winter all conspire to make you want to stay long after the coffee has been cleared away. The food is rich and satisfying and the whole experience is equal to the West End and at half the price.

FURTHER AFIELD Le Vacherin £££

76–77 South Parade, W4 5LF ***Tel*** *020 8742 2121*

Le Vacherin is a chef-patron restaurant in deepest Chiswick, a lovely area of London. Here they have re-created a charming Parisian bistro, serving top-notch food in a nice unpretentious way to a loyal local clientele. Sunday brunch is particularly popular. October to March they serve the speciality cheese, le Vacherin, baked with black truffles, almonds and white wine.

FURTHER AFIELD Lots Road Pub & Dining Room £££

114 Lots Road, SW10 0RJ ***Tel*** *020 7352 6645* ***Map*** *16 F5*

A smart take on gastropub style, the Lots Road Pub is located on the far western side of Chelsea. There is a bright, modern dining area alongside a relaxed bar where punters can sample the excellent beers. Regulars on the menu include lively salads, rich meats such as daube of fine beef and superior-quality burgers with perfect chips.

Key to Price Guide *see p608* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

FURTHER AFIELD Morgan M £££

489 Liverpool Road, N7 8NS ***Tel*** *020 7609 3560*

A converted old pub at the unfashionable end of Islington seems an odd place to find a superb French gourmet restaurant, but this is where chef Morgan Meunier has set up shop. The atmosphere is quiet, calm and formal; menus – great value for this quality – present a gorgeous range of flavours, with every detail outstanding. Reservations are essential.

FURTHER AFIELD Rivington Grill £££

178 Greenwich High Rd, Greenwich, SE10 8NN ***Tel*** *020 8293 9270*

Located next to the cinema, Rivington is a great spot for lunch, dinner or drinks before or after a movie or tour around historic Greenwich. Hearty British cuisine is served in a modern dining room with exposed brickwork, crisp white linen tablecloths and low lighting. The Market Breakfast is good. Closed Mon.

FURTHER AFIELD The Belvedere £££

Holland House, Abbotsbury Road, W8 6LU ***Tel*** *020 7602 1238* ***Map*** *7 B5*

Tucked away in leafy Holland Park, the Belvedere has a perfect location. The opulence of the main room doesn't get reflected in the bill. Instead, a brilliant variety of dishes is effortlessly combined with a very fair price. "Gastropub" type food means hearty and heartening meals that comfort the senses while tickling the palate.

FURTHER AFIELD The Engineer £££

65 Gloucester Avenue, Camden, NW1 8JH ***Tel*** *020 7722 0950*

One of the longest-running gastropubs, and still a model of its kind, The Engineer features a varied, interesting menu that uses fresh ingredients. The bar and dining room are both enjoyably relaxing, and for summer there are tables in a pretty garden. Unusually, it also opens for breakfast, from 9am. Very popular so tables can be hard to get.

FURTHER AFIELD Bibendum ££££

Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, SW3 6RD ***Tel*** *020 7581 5817* ***Map*** *17 B2*

Bibendum's location, in the 1930s former Michelin tyre building, makes any meal here a special occasion. The dining area is surrounded by spectacular Art Deco tiles and stained glass showing Michelin men on bicycles. Seafood is the speciality here, and the creative haute cuisine is consistently impressive. Save space for the delicately scrumptious desserts.

FURTHER AFIELD Gordon Ramsay At 68 Royal Hospital Road £££££

68 Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 4HP ***Tel*** *020 7352 4441* ***Map*** *17 C4*

Awarded with three Michelin stars, this restaurant strives for perfection and the effort reflects in everything from place settings to service. For an astonishing average of £110 per person, it is reputedly the best restaurant in London as well as all of England. As a souvenir of London, meal memories here will last a lifetime.

FURTHER AFIELD The River Café £££££

Thames Wharf, Rainville Rd, Hammersmith, W6 9HA ***Tel*** *020 7386 4200*

The michelin-starred River Café is a well-established favourite among Londoners and tourists alike. With outstanding service, beautifully prepared rustic Italian dishes such as buffalo ricotta and turbot, and an excellent wine list, it's well worth the price. Floor-to-ceiling windows offer lovely views of the gardens and river beyond.

THE DOWNS AND CHANNEL COAST

ARUNDEL Amberley Castle £££££

Amberley, nr Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 9LT ***Tel*** *01798 831992*

Nestled in some wonderfully imposing 18-m (60-ft) walls with a 12th-century portcullis, this fine restaurant offers a seasonally adjusted menu of local treats. Afternoon tea is served Mon–Thu. Its popularity as a wedding venue makes it necessary to book ahead.

BRIGHTON La Fourchette ££

105 Western Rd, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 2AA ***Tel*** *01273 722556*

Lauded as one of Brighton's best restaurants, this handsome bistro is a relaxed showcase for confident regional Gallic comfort classics. The odd Moroccan twist spices up proceedings. An excellent wine list to match, while the choice of desserts will test the strongest resolve.

BRIGHTON Seattle Restaurant £££

Hotel Seattle, Brighton Marina, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 5WA ***Tel*** *01273 679799*

A sleek Brighton favourite overlooking the Marina, this restaurant lays stress on mod-European flavours and seafood delicacies. It also serves up a decent selection of pastas. Try the salmon and dill fishcakes or the pan-seared skate served with capers and lemon. The well-stocked and busy cocktail bar adds to the chic buzz.

BRIGHTON Seven Dials £££

1 Buckingham Place, Seven Dials, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 3TD ***Tel*** *01273 885555*

A bustling eatery much beloved by Brighton's Sunday supplement set, Seven Dials is housed in a converted bank. The menu makes good use of Sussex farmland and local organic produce. Private dining is provided in the downstairs Vault, while a summer terrace offers the perfect spot for al fresco people-watching.

BRIGHTON Terre à Terre £££

71 East Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1HQ ***Tel*** *01273 729051*

This ground-breaking vegetarian restaurant is one of the first to have combined all-vegetarian cooking with sophisticated culinary skills and careful sourcing of the finest ingredients. Menu options are enormously varied and full of vibrant flavours, while the ambience is informal. Always busy, particularly at weekends, so book in advance.

BRIGHTON Hotel du Vin ££££

Ship St, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1AD ***Tel*** *01273 718588*

Part of the reliable, cheerful Hotel du Vin mini-chain, this natty bistro is tucked away in the Lanes. The menu opts for modern European with French influence. Vegetarians are also catered for. Some choice selections from the extensive wine list are on offer. The Pub du Vin next door serves traditional pub fare with ales and wine.

CANTERBURY The Goods Shed ££££

Station Road West, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8AN ***Tel*** *01227 459153*

At this farmers' market diner-cum-café, there's a simple blackboard menu offering well-constructed treats. The simple home cooking uses the best of the day's produce from the myriad stalls. As it is increasingly popular with local foodies, seating is at quite a premium during peak times. Closed Mondays; lunch only Sundays.

CHICHESTER The George and Dragon Inn ££

North St, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1NQ ***Tel*** *01243 785660*

This smartly refurbished pub now features a comfortable and relaxed restaurant in the conservatory, with tables spilling over on to the courtyard in the summer months. The menu offers quality home-made food as well as bar snacks. Located on the North Walls walk, near the famous Chichester Festival Theatre.

CHICHESTER Comme Ça ££££

67 Broyle Rd, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 6BD ***Tel*** *01243 788724*

Just around the corner from Chichester's historic centre, Comme Ça is a busy centrepiece for full-blooded Normandy cooking genially served in a comfortably rustic ambience. Outside dining is available on the terrace during the summer months, while the Garden Room is a popular spot for private functions. Closed Mon.

DEAL 81 Beach Street ££

81 Beach Street, Deal, Kent, CT14 6JB ***Tel*** *01304 368136*

Housed in an 18th-century former shop in Deal's charming old town, this friendly bistro provides excellent, mostly traditional, British food with an inventive modern twist. Sunday roast lunches are particularly popular, and great value; other specialities include delicious smoked haddock and vegetarian pancakes.

EAST CHILTINGTON The Jolly Sportsman £££

Chapel Lane, East Chiltington, East Sussex, BN7 3BA ***Tel*** *01273 890400*

This acclaimed gastropub is a relaxed rural retreat, famed for its free-range chicken and duck, with enjoyable Euro stylings elsewhere on a surprisingly refined menu. Contemporary art adorns the walls, while the shaded terrace has a distinctly Moroccan feel. Microbrewery on the premises. Closed Sunday evening, Mondays.

EAST LAVANT Royal Oak £££

Pook Lane, East Lavant, West Sussex, PO18 0AX ***Tel*** *01243 527434*

Once the local watering hole in an off-the-beaten-track Downland village close to Goodwood, the Royal Oak is now a highly reputed gastropub and still maintains its original 200-year-old charm. On the menu you'll find high-class renditions of pub classics plus specials with a more modern accent. Accommodation is also available.

EMSWORTH 36 on the Quay ££££

47 South St, Emsworth, Hampshire, PO10 7EG ***Tel*** *01243 375592*

Located in a fishing village overlooking the bay, this bright and affable dining room focuses largely on fish. In addition, plenty of landlubber local produce feature on the menu. The "Little Big" tasting menu allows diners to enjoy a little bit of everything. Overnight accommodation available. Closed Sun, Mon.

EVERSLEY New Mill Restaurant £££

New Mill Rd, Eversley, Hampshire, RG27 0RA ***Tel*** *01189 732277*

Rural honey pot perched on the banks of River Blackwater and the Millpond. The main restaurant is home to à la carte lighter fare, while the grill room, basing itself on the rural gastropub template, is the place for belt-loosening, comfort classics. There's an award-winning wine list.

FAVERSHAM Read's Restaurant with Rooms ££££

Macknade Manor, Canterbury Rd, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8XE ***Tel*** *01795 535344*

Traditional Georgian manor house with self-styled "restaurant-with-rooms", Read's is set in its own wooded grounds. The kitchen produces a delicious range of seasonal, modern British fare. Plenty of vegetables, fresh from its own walled garden, are accompanied by locally caught game and fish.

HAYWARDS HEATH Jeremy's at Borde Hill £££

Borde Hill Gardens, Balcombe Rd, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1XP ***Tel*** *01444 441102*

Overlooking a walled Victorian garden, this family-run restaurant cooks up modern European dishes, with a strong Mediterranean influence. Local artwork on the walls and friendly service add to the pleasingly relaxed air. The outdoor dining on the terrace is a perfect spot for Sunday lunch.

Key to Price Guide *see p608* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

HYTHE BAY Hythe Bay Seafood Restaurant ££

Marine Parade, Hythe Bay, Kent, CT21 6AW ***Tel*** *01303 267024*

This beachfront charmer conjures up a whole range of innovative recipes with the local catch. The oysters are a house speciality. Vegetarian dishes are on offer too. There is a sunny terrace for dining al fresco in good weather, and morning coffee and drinks are served at the bar from 10am. Occasional complimentary wine offers.

JEVINGTON The Hungry Monk ££££

Jevington, nr Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 5QF ***Tel*** *01323 482178*

Local game and fish jostle for position and are given a Gallic twist on the enjoyable menu on offer at this 14th-century flint cottage. A one-time monastic retreat, complete with log fireplaces, candlelight and assorted antiques, the Hungry Monk is at its finest when the nights are drawing in. Half of the extensive wine list is under £20 a bottle.

LEWES Bill's Produce Store £

56 Cliffe High St, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2AN ***Tel*** *01273 476918*

People come from miles around and from as far as London to eat at this deli/café/restaurant. The amazing variety of dishes is served in generous portions and beautifully presented. There is always a queue, but it moves fast, and the service is friendly and efficient. Another branch is in Brighton. Closes at 6pm Mon–Sat, 5pm Sun.

NEWBURY Dew Pond ££££

Old Burghclere, Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 9LH ***Tel*** *01635 278408*

A cosy country-house restaurant on the edge of Watership Down, Dew Pond specializes in Scottish beef. Closer to home, Hampshire cheeses and local game also feature on the menu. Oak beams and outside decking add to the allure. Watch out for a series of monthly gastro evenings featuring five-course dinners with specially selected wines.

PORTSMOUTH A Bar Bistro ££

58 White Hart Rd, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 2JA ***Tel*** *02392 811585*

There's much to enjoy in this affable seafood restaurant overlooking the fish market. The A Bar Bistro has an airy feel, with French windows and a terrace. For mains, try the salmon wellington, mussels or local catch of the day. Certainly not ideal if you are just having drinks, though you can get yourself a passable martini here.

RIPLEY Drakes ££££

The Clock House, High Street, Ripley, Surrey, GU23 6AQ ***Tel*** *01483 224777*

A fine Queen Anne town house with variegated brickwork and a very attractive garden, Drakes is becoming an increasingly popular destination for London foodies. Well-crafted modern French favourites are created by a confident young chef, whose impressive CV includes stints with über-chefs Marco Pierre White and Nico Landenis.

RYE Landgate Bistro ££

5–6 Landgate, Rye, Sussex, TN31 7LH ***Tel*** *01797 222829*

The Landgate Bistro is famed for its agreeably uncomplicated modern British fare that has a growing army of fans. Its fishcakes and other clever tricks with seafood are much celebrated. Also on offer are local meats and game. Among the menu highlights are the delicious leek and Roquefort tarts. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

SEAVIEW Priory Bay Hotel ££££

Priory Drive, Seaview, Isle of Wight, PO34 5BU ***Tel*** *01983 613146*

Dating back to the medieval times, this hotel has a pair of hotel dining rooms set on the bay itself, with their own private beach. The Priory Oyster specializes in seafood and light mod-Med flavours that come with a good and healthy zing. It also welcomes children, unlike the Island Room, which is preferred by the less calorie-conscious.

STOCKBRIDGE The Greyhound ££££

31 High St, Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6EY ***Tel*** *01264 810833*

Superior gastropub serving modern English cuisine, the Greyhound makes plentiful use of produce from the nearby New Forest and the River Test, which runs through the grounds. On the menu, meat options outweigh the fish-based dishes. Though the place can get loud, there's much to recommend here. Closed Sun dinner, Mon.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS Thackeray's ££££

85 London Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1EA ***Tel*** *01892 511921*

Thackeray's offers agreeable modern French flavours in a Grade II listed building, once home to the eponymous novelist. The warm, chatty atmosphere draws a contended clientele, both local and from further afield. Cocktails are served beforehand in the Gold Room, and a post-meal Scotch in the gold leaf-lined Throne Room. Closed Sun dinner, Mon.

WHITSTABLE Wheelers Oyster Bar £££

8 High St, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1BQ ***Tel*** *01227 273311*

Justly celebrated shellfish emporium that closes at 9pm, Wheelers Oyster Bar is the oldest fish and shellfish establishment in Britain. It doesn't have a licence so bring your own wine to the Oyster Parlour, tucked behind the main seafood bar, or nip over to the pebble beach for an impromptu picnic. Closed Wednesdays.

WHITSTABLE Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company £££

Horsebridge, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1BU ***Tel*** *01227 276856*

This is a popular seafood restaurant based in an old Naval warehouse overlooking the North Sea. There's a busy open kitchen with skilled staff getting to grips with fish freshly caught by the company's own band of fishermen. The nautically themed decor is enthusiastic but stops short of going overboard. Closed Mon evenings.

WILMINGTON Crossways Hotel

🍷 £££

Wilmington, nr Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 5SG ***Tel*** *01323 482455*

A short stroll from the famed Long Man of Wilmington, the Crossways is a great spot for those visiting Glyndebourne. Its modern British cuisine uses fresh local ingredients. Though the classic dining room may not impress the style-conscious, it's well worth the experience.

WINCHESTER The Chesil Rectory

🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

1 Chesil Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 0HU ***Tel*** *01962 851555*

The oldest, continually occupied house in Winchester, dating from 1450, is wonderfully atmospheric, with half-timbered walls and massive oak beams in its snug rooms. Under chef Damian Brown the restaurant has hit a new high, with creative, flavour-rich, modern British cooking highlighting local ingredients. Superb wine list, plus a wine shop.

EAST ANGLIA

ALDEBURGH 152 Aldeburgh

🧒 ♿ ££

152 High St, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5AX ***Tel*** *01728 454594*

A leisurely pebble's throw from the beach, chic little 152 Aldeburgh serves up modern European cooking with a bias towards flavours from south of the Alps. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the restaurant benefits from a well-travelled kitchen and the bountiful fresh produce on its doorstep. Closed first two weeks of January.

ALDEBURGH Regatta Restaurant and Wine Bar

🧒 🍷 ££

171–173 High St, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5AN ***Tel*** *01728 452011*

Favoured spot for seasonal asparagus, this cheery, family-run restaurant waves the flag for Suffolk's acclaimed regional produce. Specialities include good fish from the beach and game from the surrounding estates in winter. A worthy addition to Aldeburgh's burgeoning foodie scene. Closed Sun dinner.

BURY ST EDMUNDS Maison Bleue

🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

31 Churchgate St, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1RG ***Tel*** *01284 760623*

This award-winning restaurant specializes in Gallic fish, though the daily-changing menu does include a special "butcher's corner" for the meat-lovers. The smart dining room is well served by a kitchen that conjures up interesting, yet simple, fare using the best of the local catch. The nautical-themed bar is decorated with paintings of the sea.

CAMBRIDGE Cambridge Chop House

🧒 £££

1 Kings Parade, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB2 1SJ ***Tel*** *01223 359506*

As the name suggests, meat is the headliner at this atmospheric venue where modern versions of British classics are cooked with imagination and first-rate local ingredients. Fish dishes also feature, and there are great fruity desserts. The wine list is varied, and the set-price lunch menu, with three courses for just £15, is excellent.

CAMBRIDGE Graffiti at Hotel Felix

🧒 ♿ £££

Whitehouse Lane, Huntingdon Rd, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CL3 0LX ***Tel*** *01223 277977*

Overlooking landscaped gardens, this handsome hotel dining room is set in a converted Victorian mansion. The menu features a selection of mod-Med dishes as well as a choice of game. Despite being just a short distance away from the bustle of Cambridge city centre, the place is quite peaceful. There is a good-value three-course lunch deal.

CAMBRIDGE Restaurant 22

🍷 £££

22 Chesterton Rd, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 3AX ***Tel*** *01223 351880*

Small but perfectly formed, Restaurant 22 is set in a smart Victorian town house that serves British and French favourites, with the odd Asian twist added for extra interest. The decent wine list is predominantly French, but does travel further afield to good effect.

CAMBRIDGE Midsummer House

🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££££

Midsummer Common, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 1HA ***Tel*** *01223 369299*

On the banks of the River Cam, Midsummer House is a plush restaurant that boasts an array of awards. The elegant ambience is well served by a kitchen with a heavy French accent. A slate floor and warm shades add to the charm and give a distinctly Mediterranean feel to proceedings. Closed Sun, Mon; Tue lunch.

CLAVERING The Cricketers

🧒 🍷 £££

Whyken Rd, Clavering, nr Saffron Walden, Cambridgeshire, CB11 4QT ***Tel*** *01799 550442*

This award-winning rural retreat has become a popular destination for London foodies. The extra allure is provided by the fact that this is actually TV chef Jamie Oliver's family home. Menus change seasonally, with the robust cooking treading that well-worn path between the UK and Italy. Good selection of wine and real ales.

COLCHESTER The Warehouse Brasserie

🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

The Old Chapel, Chapel St North, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7AT ***Tel*** *01206 765656*

One of the better dining options in the area, the Warehouse Brasserie is set in the heart of Colchester. A decent collection of British comfort food classics is served to an appreciative mix of diners in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The attentive service here makes for a pleasant dining experience. Closed Sun, Mon.

CROMER Bolton's Bistro 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

The Cliftonville Hotel, Seafront, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 9AS ***Tel*** *01263 512543*

There's a really traditional feel to this seafront bistro affair with its daily-changing blackboard menu displaying prepared-to-order fresh fish specialities, including some fine seasonal Cromer crab and lobster. Red meat-eaters and vegetarians get their share of goodies too, while the ice cream has a local fan club.

FRESSINGFIELD EYE The Fox and Goose Inn 🧒 ♿ ££

Church Rd, Fressingfield Eye, Suffolk, IP21 5PB ***Tel*** *01379 586247*

Once a poorhouse, the Fox and Goose Inn has been a local favourite since the mid-1800s. The restaurant serves modern British cuisine and has perfected its interpretation of regional specialities, with a pro-European touch added occasionally. Closed Mondays; first two weeks in Jan.

HOLKHAM The Victoria at Holkham 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Holkham Estate, nr Wells-Next-The-Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1RG ***Tel*** *01328 713230*

A stroll from the windswept sands of Holkham Beach, this neat hotel diner serves local shellfish, organic delicacies and wild game. Thornham oysters, crab and mussels are the house specialities; the venison, beef and game come from the Holkham Estate. Booking is essential.

HOLT Morston Hall 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££££

Holt, Norfolk, NR25 7AA ***Tel*** *01263 741041*

Increasingly popular honeypot for happy-go-lucky locals and yachting types from nearby Morston Quay, Morston Hall is an inviting, relaxed place. The five-course daily-changing menu features superior cooking with French foundations. Afternoon tea is served daily by the open fire. Closed first three weeks in Jan.

HUNTINGDON The Pheasant 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Keyston, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE18 0RE ***Tel*** *01832 710241*

This thatched inn, with oaked-beam dining room, is home to some heartening Anglo-French fare. The secret of its outstanding cooking lies in the successful blending of classical French techniques with the pick of local game. The well-considered wine list includes a wide by-the-glass choice.

IPSWICH Il Punto 🧒 £££

Neptune Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1AX ***Tel*** *01473 289748*

A former Belgian gunboat dating from the 1800s, Il Punto now serves as a floating brasserie with a distinctly Gallic outlook. The interior makes good use of its original fittings, while there's plenty of outside deck dining to be enjoyed when waters are calmer. No lunch served on Saturdays.

MELBOURN Sheene Mill 🧒 🍷 £££

Station Rd, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, SG8 6DX ***Tel*** *01763 261393*

The cosy interior and chatty, informal air belie the meticulous kitchen at this restored rural mill. Proudly waving the flag for British cuisine, albeit with plenty of influences from sunnier climes, the cooking here is of a very high quality. The vegetables and herbs are all from the garden on the premises.

NORWICH Tatlers 🧒 🍷 ££

21 Tombland, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1RF ***Tel*** *01603 766670*

A long-standing brasserie, Tatler's is situated in the heart of town, just around the corner from the cathedral. The staff dispense modern British fare to an appreciative mix of diners in an informal atmosphere. The seasonal menu uses local ingredients and includes decent vegetarian options. Closed Sunday evenings.

NORWICH St Giles House Restaurant 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

41–45 St Giles St, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1AB ***Tel*** *01603 275180*

The philosophy of this restaurant specializing in modern European cuisine is simple: offering top-quality food made with the finest local and seasonal ingredients. There is an extensive wine list covering both the old and new worlds, and a wide range of wines by the glass. Located in a Grade II listed building in the centre of town.

OULTON BROAD The Crooked Barn Restaurant 🧒 ♿ £££

Ivy House Country Hotel, Ivy Lane, Oulton Broad, Suffolk, NR33 8HY ***Tel*** *01502 501353*

An 18th-century thatched barn, Crooked Barn Restaurant is ideal for candlelit dining in a light and spacious room. The excellent cooking, which uses local free-range and organic produce, is predominantly British. The odd garnish from further afield is also added to good effect, with touches from southern Europe, as well as Down Under.

SOUTHWOLD The Promenade 💳 🧒 ⛱ £

Southwold Pier, North Parade, Southwold, Suffolk, IP18 6BN ***Tel*** *01502 722105*

Fans rate The Promenade as one of the best fish and chip cafés in England. It certainly has a great location, above the sea on the 19th-century pier in fashionable Southwold. You can eat in or take away. They also offer very generous full English breakfasts. Other options on the Pier are the Boardwalk restaurant and the Clockhouse pub-café.

STANTON The Leaping Hare Restaurant 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Wyken Hall, Stanton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 2DW ***Tel*** *01359 250287*

This well-known restaurant stands in a converted 18th-century barn. The attractive dining room is set on the edge of a country estate, nestled among woods, vineyards and perfect gardens. An appealing rustic menu featuring Suffolk fare matches the ambience. The excellent wine list includes wines produced from the Wyken vineyard.

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA The Crown Hotel 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

The Buttlands, Wells-Next-The-Sea, NR23 1EX ***Tel*** *01328 710209*

Restored from a 16th-century coaching inn, the Crown serves decent British fare with a few interesting Pacific Rim touches. The kitchen enjoys the best of fresh produce caught in the picturesque harbour town on the Norfolk coast. Lighter bites are available in the bar, with an open fire and old oak beams. Two-course set menu Mon–Thu.

WOODBRIDGE Crown & Castle 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2LJ ***Tel*** *01394 450205*

Sitting in the shadows of a Norman castle, this relaxed, elegant hotel dining room plays to its strengths: a quintessentially English menu for such a perfect English setting. The private dining room is home to a large round table, and suitable for small dinner parties.

WYMONDHAM Number 24 Restaurant 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

24 Middleton St, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0AD ***Tel*** *01953 607750*

Located in a charming Grade II listed building, this restaurant has a seasonal menu featuring contemporary English cuisine. The Sunday lunch, however, tends to follow a more traditional route. Closed Sunday dinner, Tuesday lunch and all day Monday.

THAMES VALLEY

BRAY-ON-THAMES The Fat Duck 🧒 🍷 £££££

High St, Bray, Berkshire, SL6 2AQ ***Tel*** *01628 580333*

One of the most exquisite restaurants in the region, Fat Duck is located in a 15th-century listed building. The exterior gives way to clean, modernist decor, where diners undergo a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Multiple, double-figure courses include such culinary inventions as snail porridge and egg and bacon ice cream.

BUCKINGHAM Prego Restaurant and Wine Bar 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

4 High St, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, MK18 1NT ***Tel*** *01280 821205*

This friendly family restaurant exudes sunny Mediterranean ambience. Well located on Buckingham high street, it specializes in authentic Italian home cooking including fine pizza and pasta dishes. Free parking is available directly opposite the restaurant.

DINTON La Chouette 🧒 £££

Westlington Green, Dinton, Buckinghamshire, HP17 8UW ***Tel*** *01296 747422*

Forget calories and fat content as you enter this Belgian restaurant situated on the village green. The fabulously rich menu caters to the indulgent food-lover. Dishes are modern European blended with a little Belgian stodge. Perfect place for jazz-loving beer connoisseurs, but watch out for low beams as you walk away from the bar.

EASINGTON The Mole and Chicken 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

Easington, nr Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, HP18 9EY ***Tel*** *01844 208387*

Well-heeled diners come from afar to this former 19th-century village store for views of the Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire countryside. The adventurous cooking features modern European cuisine using local produce. There's also a good wine list. While it's open-plan and snug inside, visitors flock to the garden in summer. Book in advance.

GODSTOW The Trout Inn 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

195 Godstow Rd, Lower Wolvercote, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 8PN ***Tel*** *01865 510930*

Built in 1133 and steeped in history, the Trout Inn was where Lewis Carroll dreamt up *Alice in Wonderland*, and Colin Dextor, the creator of Inspector Morse, regularly sunk a pint. On the banks of Oxford Canal, punters enjoy passing boats and feed the fish, ducks, swans and peacocks as they tuck into European fare.

GREAT MILTON Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££££

Church Rd, Great Milton, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX44 7PD ***Tel*** *01844 278881*

Acclaimed as an art gallery for the taste buds, this restaurant has a two-acre kitchen garden producing the vegetables and herbs used in their imaginatively crafted dishes. The new season milk-fed lamb is one of the specialities. Lovingly prepared picnic hampers sustain explorations around the surrounding countryside.

GREAT MISSENDEN La Petite Auberge 🧒 🍷 ££££

107 High St, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, HP16 0BB ***Tel*** *01494 865370*

Set in the idyllically quiet Chiltern village, La Petite Auberge is a quaint French restaurant run by a self-effacing French couple. Though the decor is modest and traditional, the impeccable authentic French cuisine more than makes up for it. The restaurant has a loyal following of locals and travellers.

KINTBURY The Dundas Arms 🧒 🍷 ££

53 Station Rd, Kintbury, Berkshire, RG17 9UT ***Tel*** *01488 658263*

Nestled on the banks of the River Kennet and Kennet and Avon Canal, the Dundas Arms is a late 18th-century restaurant-pub. Local produce is imaginatively whipped up into creative dishes and served amid simple but effective decor. The beer and wine selections are handsome, beefed up by local Rambury and West Berkshire brews.

MAIDENHEAD The Waterside Inn £££££

The Waterside Inn, Ferry Rd, Bray, Berkshire, SL6 2AT ***Tel*** *01628 620691*

Boasting three Michelin stars, the jewel in chef entrepreneur Michel Roux's restaurant empire is a formal establishment offering French dining at its very finest. Enjoy roasted Challandais duck with lemon, while the Thames refracts throughout this riverside gem. Finish up with indulgent digestifs in one of the summerhouses or by the fire. Open Wed–Sun.

MOULSFORD The Boathouse at the Beetle and Wedge ££££

Moulsford-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, OX10 9JF ***Tel*** *01491 651381*

Beetle and Wedge is encircled by beautiful gardens running alongside the river immortalized in Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows.* The relaxed Boathouse Restaurant is not to be missed during long evenings when dishes are grilled to perfection. Inside, the dining room can be used for private parties. Booking ahead is a must.

OXFORD Browns ££

5–11 Woodstock Rd, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 6HA ***Tel*** *01865 511995*

A branch of the booming brasserie chain, Browns is a firm favourite with business folk and weekend lunchers. The menu is filled with contemporary dishes, such as asparagus and wild mushroom risotto, to complement snacks and salads, sandwiches and steaks. There is also a set menu. Pretty seating spills out onto the pavement in summer.

OXFORD Jamie's Italian ££

24–26 George Street, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 2AE ***Tel*** *01865 838383*

At Jamie's Italian, exuberant TV chef Jamie Oliver offers enjoyable, Italian-based food in a casual setting. Prices are reasonable, and bookings cannot be made, so be prepared to queue. The Oxford branch was the first to open but there are now several Jamie's Italians around Britain.

OXFORD Cherwell Boathouse £££

Bardwell Rd, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 6SR ***Tel*** *01865 552746*

With a riverfront location at a punting station, Cherwell Boathouse is a favourite with wine buffs and romancers. Simple, but flawless, modern European cooking is enhanced by a well-priced and famously good wine selection. Try the honed-to-perfection goat's cheese or adventurous dishes such as pan-fried pollock.

OXON Sir Charles Napier ££££

Sprigg's Alley, nr Chinnor, Oxon, Oxfordshire, OX39 4BX ***Tel*** *01494 483011*

A favourite with showbiz types seeking retreat, this isolated pub-restaurant in the Chiltern hills is not easily accessed, but the stunning views make it more than worth it. The British menu is slightly pricey, but features some rare dishes. Check the restaurant website as the menu is constantly changing. Remarkable garden sculptures and paintings.

PENN STREET VILLAGE Hit or Miss Inn ££

Penn St Village, Penn St, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, HP7 0PX ***Tel*** *01494 713109*

Hit or Miss is a gastropub in the most traditional sense. Its location, opposite a cricket club, makes it a favourite destination for locals or walkers strolling from Penn Wood. The menu is vast, covering everything from crayfish to a reasonable set Sunday roast. Watch out for special Morris dancing, jazz events and a beer fest in July.

READING London Street Brasserie £££

2–4 London St, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 4SE ***Tel*** *01189 505036*

This brasserie prides itself on being an antidote to generic, conveyor-belt eateries. Waiting staff wear black, but are allowed to express individuality in no set uniform. The menu mixes British, French and Mediterranean cuisine, yet manages to avoid becoming confusing, while the contemporary decor makes this brasserie a romantic dining destination.

READING L'Ortolan £££££

Church Lane, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 9BY ***Tel*** *01189 888500*

One of the best restaurants in the country, this British and French eatery is an absolute pleasure. Its lovely setting in luxurious gardens is complemented by the terrace and conservatory. Wine-tasting evenings emphasize their focus on fine drinking as well as dining. Set lunches and menus are tasty and affordable.

REED The Cabinet at Reed £££

The Cabinet, High St, Reed, nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8AH ***Tel*** *01763 848366*

Boasting a unique blend of English, French and transatlantic fare, the Cabinet is a rising star in the quiet Hertfordshire countryside. It is housed in a 16th-century building, with a pleasant decor comprising beamed ceilings and leather chairs. Outside, it is stunning with a large al fresco dining area and a wood-burning rotisserie.

SPEEN The Old Plow Bistro & Restaurant £££

Flowers Bottom Lane, Speen, Buckinghamshire, HP27 0PZ ***Tel*** *01494 488300*

A 17th-century building set in the heart of the Chiltern countryside, Old Plow is famed for a very high quality of modern eclectic cuisine. Specialities are French dishes with wonderful sauces, and seafood which arrives direct from the Devon coast. Good value fixed-price menu and friendly service. Closed Sun, Mon.

STREATLEY The Swan at Streatley £££

Streatley-on-Thames, Berkshire, RG8 9HR ***Tel*** *01491 878800*

The restaurant at this efficient business and leisure hotel serves carefully prepared dishes with the best local produce. The star attraction on the menu is the roast breast of Gressingham duck with citrus fruits. Adjourn from the Riverside Terrace to the Drawing Room Bar for a coffee or liqueur for the full dining experience.

THAME The Thatch £££

29–30 Lower High St, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2AA ***Tel*** *01844 214340*

Set in a 16th-century half-timbered building, the Thatch offers a well-considered menu, which makes excellent use of seasonal and ethically produced ingredients. The restaurant also boasts an airy dining room, open fires and a secluded patio garden. The attentive staff ensure eating and drinking here is a relaxed affair.

THURLEIGH The Jackal ££

3 High St, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, MK44 2DB ***Tel*** *01234 771293*

This pub-restaurant offers outstanding and award-winning bistro-style food. With a huge outdoor garden and an inviting interior filled with sofas and easy chairs, it's the perfect place to spend an evening or lunch time. The home-made sticky toffee pudding is fast becoming famous across the district.

WINDSOR Al Fassia ££

27 St Leonards Rd, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 3BP ***Tel*** *01753 855370*

Shining out among the traditional Windsor restaurants, Al Fassia serves a host of North African delights. The caring concern of a family-run business is matched with a strictly professional attention to detail. The fluffy, melt-in-the-mouth couscous is well worth a try. Some specialities must be ordered a couple of days ahead.

WINDSOR Mango Lounge £££

9 Datchet Rd, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1QB ***Tel*** *01753 855576*

With views across to Windsor Castle, this is a stylish and contemporary Indian restaurant. The innovative menu reflects the entire Indian sub-continent, including Goan, Bengali, Gujarati and Rajasthani influences. Try the king prawn moilee, cooked in a coconut and curry leaf sauce, or the Karai chicken, flavoured with chilli flakes and cumin.

WOBURN Paris House £££££

Woburn Park, Woburn, Bedfordshire, MK17 9QP ***Tel*** *01525 290692*

A mock-Tudor building set in the grounds of Woburn Abbey, Paris House is a fancy, but friendly, restaurant serving contemporary French cuisine. Varied menus range from gastronomic to special occasions (such as *Phantom of the Opera* evenings) to fine à la carte choices. Don't miss the wonderfully dripping hot raspberry soufflé.

WOODSTOCK The Feathers Hotel ££££

Market St, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1SX ***Tel*** *01993 812291*

Situated near to historic landmarks such as Blenheim Palace and the Oxford University's "dreaming spires", the Feathers successfully combines modern cuisine with traditional dishes. Originally seven separate 17th-century houses, the building has a cosy and charismatic interior, with roasting log fires and interesting antique furniture.

WESSEX

AVEBURY The Circle Restaurant £

High St, Avebury, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1RF ***Tel*** *01672 539514*

Vegetarians and wholefood fans rave about this counter-service restaurant beside the ancient stone circle. Using local products, they serve up wonderful home-made soups and organic teas – all at an extremely reasonable price. It's a perfect place to allow the wonder of Avebury stone circle to properly sink in, along with their nutritious flapjacks.

AXMINSTER River Cottage Canteen ££

Trinity Sq, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5AN ***Tel*** *01297 631715*

Part of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage empire, this local-produce store and café-restaurant showcases the best of the region's local and seasonal food, with an eye on local producers. Expect the likes of fresh, line-caught fish from Lyme Bay, and plenty of goodies to take away. Closed Sun, Mon dinner all year & Sun–Wed dinner in winter.

BATH Café Retro £

18 York St, Bath, Somerset, BA1 1NG ***Tel*** *01225 339347*

This independent café down a side street behind the Abbey is a long-standing favourite with Bathonians. Particularly favoured for lunch, its boho atmosphere draws people in for all-day breakfasts, ciabattas, toasted and club sandwiches, and tea and cakes. It's open seven days a week but closed in the evenings and during private functions.

BATH Browns ££

Orange Grove, Bath, Somerset, BA1 1LP ***Tel*** *01225 461199*

Inside a Georgian building once used as a police station and magistrates court, Browns serves up classic Brit cuisine in a classy atmosphere. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and is a popular spot for afternoon tea, while the outdoor patio is ideal for sipping cocktails during the summer months.

BATH Demuths ££

2 North Parade Passage, off Abbey Green, Bath, Somerset, BA1 1NX ***Tel*** *01225 446059*

This Bath institution is great not just for vegetarians and vegans but for anyone who enjoys world food. Delights such as Demuth's famous tempura tofu ramen and vegan chocolate cake are served up in a colourful dining room. The restaurant is housed in a grand Georgian building and is a great place for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea or dinner.

BATH Hole in the Wall 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££

16 George St, Bath, Somerset, BA1 2EN ***Tel*** *01225 425242*

This vaulted restaurant has been refurbished to bring sleek minimalism to dazzling period features. The old-fashioned service and subdued atmosphere merely adds to its glamour. The contemporary British cuisine, with a French flair, is superb. Don't miss the buttered cabbage. Good-value lunch and pre-theatre menus.

BATH Jamie's Italian 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££

10 Milsom Place, Bath, Somerset, BA1 1BZ ***Tel*** *01225 510051*

It's not difficult to find an Italian restaurant in Bath, but Jamie's – one of his national chain – is among the best. The service here is good, the ingredients fresh and the flavours lip-smacking. Expect rustic Italian specials and an Italian wine list, with bottles and 500ml carafes to choose from. Great atmosphere and much beloved in the city.

BATH River Cottage Canteen @ Komedia 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££

22–23 Westgate St, Bath, Somerset, BA1 1EP ***Tel*** *01225 471578*

Housed inside Bath's Komedia comedy club, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's menu combines local produce with seasonal dishes. Fresh bread and pastries line up alongside salads of smoked rump steak and Jerusalem artichoke. Open for breakfast, lunch and tea until 4pm. Dinner is served from Wednesdays to Sundays.

BATH Moon and Sixpence 🚸 £££

27 Milsom Place, Bath, Somerset, BA1 1BZ ***Tel*** *01225 320080*

A well-kept secret, Moon and Sixpence is a favourite with locals and discerning visitors. Hidden up a cobbled path, it offers quiet dining right in the bustling city centre. The reasonably priced food is loosely termed modern-international. Particularly pleasant in summer when table service is provided in the downstairs conservatory.

BATH The Olive Tree 🚸 🍷 ££££

4–7 Russell St, Bath, Somerset, BA1 2QF ***Tel*** *01225 447928*

Inside the Queensberry Hotel, The Olive Tree restaurant is a stylish haven serving up classic British fare. The menu includes seared Cornish scallops, liquorish roast loin of venison and sticky toffee pudding. The emphasis is on local West Country ingredients, and prices are reasonable for the quality.

BATH The Bath Priory 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££££

Weston Road, Bath, Somerset, BA1 2XT ***Tel*** *01225 331922*

This top-notch establishment stands in a 19th-century Bath hotel, surrounded by four acres of award-winning gardens. Executive chef Michael Caines has two Michelin stars and is renowned for his innovative modern-European cuisine. Tasting and seasonal menus are available. Private dining is also possible.

BEAMINSTER Wild Garlic 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££

4 The Square, Beaminster, Dorset, DT8 3AS ***Tel*** *01308 861446*

Mat Follas, the owner of this restaurant, won Masterchef 2009 (BBC TV series) for his hearty, tasty food. His restaurant centres on local produce, with occasional wild ingredients and edible flowers foraged from local hedgerows. Menu options include goat's cheese and wild green salad, lamb loin and home-made Dorset apple cake.

BEAMINSTER Bridge House Hotel 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

Prout Bridge, Beaminster, Dorset, DT8 3AY ***Tel*** *01308 862200*

A few minutes from the Dorset coast, among beautiful countryside, this restaurant makes a great refreshment break. Local produce is transformed into dishes that change daily, but are likely to include fresh scallops or their speciality – organic pork, chicken and lamb. An additional brasserie serves French-inspired fare at slightly lower prices.

BOURNEMOUTH Chez Fred 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £

10 Seamoor Rd, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH4 9AN ***Tel*** *01202 761023*

The only place to eat fish and chips by the seaside, Chez Fred is famous for its interpretation of the national delicacy as well as mouthwatering puddings. Quintessentially British, the setting of this family-run eatery is welcoming and the atmosphere children-friendly and lively, with competitions to win extra portions of chips.

BOURNEMOUTH Urban Reef Café 🚸 ♫ ♿ ⛱ 🍷 ££

The Overstrand, Undercliff Dr, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH5 1BN ***Tel*** *01202 443960*

Urban Reef Café and Deli is all about bright colours, trendy fixtures and stunning views of the sea. By day it's a funky cosmopolitan café serving coffee, cakes and a wide range of lunches; by night it's a restaurant. Mains include free-range New Forest chicken breast stuffed with leek and wrapped in bacon, and plenty of seafood specials.

BOURNEMOUTH Westpoint Bistro 🚸 ♿ ⛱ 🍷 ££

Corner of St Michaels and Westcliff Rd, Westcliff, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 5DS ***Tel*** *01202 556505*

Locals and visiting fish fans love this down-to-earth bistro. The catch of the day often includes John Dory and oysters from nearby Poole. The wine list is light, designed to compliment the popular fresh fish dishes. There are some non-fish options on the menu, but the seafood is the real attraction.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON Woolley Grange 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Woolley Green, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1TX ***Tel*** *01225 864705*

This intriguing 17th-century Jacobean manor house, built of Bath stone, is beautifully surrounded by 14 acres of leafy grounds. The extensive menu features everything from children's food to fine international cuisine using locally sourced produce. A casual, cosy atmosphere prevails in the dining room decorated with Oriental rugs and antiques.

BRISTOL Arnolfini Café & Bar 🧒 ♿ ▦ 🍷 ££

16 Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA ***Tel*** *0117 9172300*

Bristol's key contemporary art gallery houses a bijou café and bar, with tables spilling out onto the popular quayside in summer. The salads, soups, sandwiches and home-made cakes all come highly recommended, while the wine list is small but perfectly formed. Arrive early to bag a seat; Arnolfini stays open until 8pm.

BRISTOL Café Maitreya 🧒 ♿ ££

89 St Mark's Rd, Easton, Bristol, BS5 6HY ***Tel*** *0117 9510100*

Take a taxi ride to this much-garlanded vegetarian restaurant off the beaten track. Café Maitreya specializes in unpretentious, organic vegetarian cuisine and tapas. There are flourishes of inspiration, and the presentation is beautiful. It gets busy, so be sure to book ahead; it's open for lunch and dinner.

BRISTOL Goldbrick House 🧒 ♿ ▦ 🍷 ££

69 Park St, Bristol, BS1 5PB ***Tel*** *0117 9451950*

One of Bristol's top and most fashionable restaurants, Goldbrick House has a number of dining options, from the casual downstairs café – good for brunch and afternoon coffee – to the secluded club-like rooms for cocktails. There is also an upstairs restaurant serving good, classically British food. The white tablecloths are spotless and the service impeccable.

BRISTOL Spyglass 🧒 ♫ ♿ ▦ ££

Welsh Back, Bristol, BS1 4SB ***Tel*** *0117 9277050*

Just along the quayside from its sister restaurant, The Glassboat, Spyglass serves year-round barbecue food at fantastic prices. Mediterranean-style meat, fish and vegetable dishes are served al fresco, and there are heaters and marquees to keep you warm and dry when it's cold.

BRISTOL The Glassboat 🧒 ♿ ▦ 🍷 ££

Welsh Back, Bristol, BS1 4SB ***Tel*** *0117 9290704*

Moored at one of Bristol's most romantic settings, this upmarket floating restaurant serves Italian-influenced dishes. Antipasti, linguini and vegetable lasagne are fresh and healthy favourites on a menu that includes great lunchtime and early evening offers. Dining at night is by candlelight.

BRISTOL Hotel du Vin 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

The Sugar House, Narrow Lewins Mead, Bristol, BS1 2NU ***Tel*** *0117 9255577*

Bristol's best restaurant has a dash of Gallic flair as well as a clubby atmosphere. Open for lunch and dinner, the classic European cuisine includes ham hock, roast partridge, chargrilled rib-eye steak and pan-fried red mullet. Children eat free, but an adult-only dining room is more the norm at night. The in-house sommelier is fantastic.

BRISTOL Riverstation 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

The Grove, Bristol, BS1 4RB ***Tel*** *01179 144434*

Formerly a harbourside police station left in decline, Riverstation has fully exploited its potential to become one of the city's top restaurants offering modern European cuisine. Of its two floors, the dock floor has a bar and kitchen which is busy and buzzing all day long. The other floor is a light and airy restaurant.

COLERNE Lucknam Park ♿ 🍷 £££££

Colerne, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 8AZ ***Tel*** *01225 742777*

Situated in a splendid country manor with hotel, spa and equestrian facilities, the restaurant is a suitably posh addition. Enjoy Michelin-starred cuisine in the Park restaurant or local specials in the relaxed brasserie. The hotel is steeped heavily in tradition and the dress code is casual but smart. No children under five.

CRUDWELL The Rectory 🧒 ♿ ▦ 🍷 £££

Rectory Hotel, Crudwell, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9EP ***Tel*** *01666 577194*

This upmarket, modern restaurant is located within the Rectory hotel, in the heart of the Cotswolds. The oak-pannelled dining room overlooks the gardens and sunken Victorian pool. On the menu are British classics, an impressive dessert selection and plenty of locally sourced cheeses. Outdoor dining is available during the summer months.

LACOCK At the Sign of the Angel 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Church St, Lacock, Wiltshire, SN15 2LB ***Tel*** *01249 730230*

The only sheep that this converted 15th-century wool merchant's house comes across now, is in the form of delicious roast lamb. The ambience is that of a quaint village restaurant, with log fires, oak panelling, low beams and squeaky floorboards, all teeming with history and character. Friendly, informal staff and good Sunday roasts.

LYME REGIS Hix Oyster and Fish House 🧒 🍷 £££

Cobb Rd, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3JP ***Tel*** *01297 446910*

Mark Hix, formerly of The Ivy in London, is the brains behind this fresh fish restaurant, with the best location in town. There are meat dishes as well as a variety of oysters on offer daily, plus the catch of the day. The set lunch menu is great value, and the Lyme Bay fish soup is recommended. Closed Mon Easter–Jun (open daily Jul–Aug).

MAIDEN NEWTON Le Petit Canard 🍷 £££

Dorchester Road, Maiden Newton, Dorchester, DT2 0BE ***Tel*** *01300 320536*

Enjoy fine dining at this rustic, France-meets-West Country restaurant. Their success is reflected in the deliciously unique dishes such as the loin fillet of local venison with redcurrant sauce. The service is impeccable and the cottage environment endearing.

Key to Price Guide *see p608* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

MIDSOMER NORTON The Moody Goose £££

The Old Priory Hotel, Church Sq, Midsomer Norton, nr Bath, Somerset, BA3 2HX ***Tel*** *01761 416784*

Fifteen miles from Bath, in the rolling Somerset countryside, The Moody Goose occupies a former priory and has all the grandeur you would expect. The food is excellent, with choices such as rabbit terrine, seared tuna sushi and cep risotto. There is also a separate vegetarian menu. Closed Sunday evenings.

POOLE Museum Inn £££

Farnham, nr Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8DE ***Tel*** *01725 516261*

With a timber-panelled dining room, a huge inglenook fireplace, flagstoned floors and wooden tables, this is a classic English pub-restaurant. The weekly menu is reasonable and perfectly executed. Ingredients are largely locally sourced and include free-range poultry and fresh fish from Brixham.

POOLE Storm Fish Restaurant £££

16 High Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1BP ***Tel*** *01202 674970*

With a rustic interior and a cosy, intimate atmosphere, Storm is perfect for a romantic dinner. Owner Pete Miles is a fisherman by day and chef by night, serving up the freshest produce in what is reputedly Poole's finest seafood restaurant. Specialist fish cookery courses are also available.

SALISBURY The Jade ££

109a Exeter St, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2SF ***Tel*** *01722 333355*

Located in the heart of the city, just a short walk from Salisbury Cathedral, this Cantonese restaurant is a firm favourite with locals. Seafood dominates the menu, and the chef's special is a whole live lobster braised, Cantonese style. Great service and friendly staff.

SHEPTON MALLETT Sharpham Park Shop and Harlequin Café £

Kilver Court, Kilver St, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BS4 5NF ***Tel*** *01749 340410*

Sharpham Park is an organic farm based near Glastonbury. Owned by Roger Saul, the founder of the Mulberry designer label, it has a café and a farm shop at Kilver Court. The café is decorated in stylish fabrics, with bleached wood furniture. Fare includes sandwiches, soups and other simple meals. The organic butcher is worth a visit.

SOMERSET Lord Poulett Arms £££

Hinton St George, Somerset, TA17 8SE ***Tel*** *01460 73149*

This celebrated gastropub in south Somerset is the perfect stop on a Sunday for its legendary roasts. More exotic lunch choices include Thai red curry with Cornish mussels. There is also a selection of gourmet sandwiches, while dinner options include pan-roasted Venison loin. Local ciders and home-made sloe gin complement the exciting menu.

SOMERSET The Pilgrims at Lovington £££

Pilgrims Rest Inn, Pilgrims Way, Lovington, Somerset, BA7 7PT ***Tel*** *01963 240600*

Robust, restaurant-quality food served in a relaxed pub atmosphere in the depths of Somerset. The menu changes on a monthly basis, but the one thing you can be sure to find are excellent local cheeses. This is one of the very best dining pubs in Somerset. There is no children's menu, but smaller portions can be made up specially.

STON EASTON Cedar Tree ££££

Ston Easton Park Hotel, Ston Easton, nr Bath, Somerset, BA3 4DF ***Tel*** *01761 241631*

Overlooking the River Nor and Ston Easton Park's beautiful gardens, this Georgian restaurant harks back to a bygone era. The food, however, is modern British, with European influences, made with fresh local produce. Open to both residential and non-residential hotel guests. Dine al fresco in the grounds in summer.

STURMINSTER NEWTON Plumber Manor £££

Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2AF ***Tel*** *01258 472507*

In the middle of Thomas Hardy's "Vale of Little Dairies" and in the centre of a triangle of charming country towns, this family-run country house and restaurant is an idyllic stopping point. Portraits adorn the walls and friendly Labradors greet guests as they come to enjoy fine food, particularly fish as well as delightful desserts.

SWANAGE Cauldron Bistro £££

5 High St, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2LN ***Tel*** *01929 422671*

Quality ingredients fresh from the sea have long been the secret to the success of this town-centre restaurant close to the quay, with French posters adding to the classic bistro atmosphere. Firm, juicy scallops are heavenly, whether served with lemon, garlic and balsamic or as a classic *coquilles* St Jacques. Invigorate the palate with the ginger ice cream.

TAUNTON The Devonshire Arms ££

Long Sutton, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9LP ***Tel*** *01458 241271*

This Grade II listed former hunting lodge is home to the perfect English pub, overlooking the village green. Inside, the stylish modern restaurant serves lunch and dinner, with local produce and British gastropub-style classics at the heart of the menu, including Gloucester Old Spot pork belly and Cornish mussels steamed in cider.

TAUNTON Castle Hotel £££

Castle Green, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1NF ***Tel*** *01823 272671*

Once a Norman fortress, this hotel has been welcoming travellers since the 12th century, and has been run by the same family for the last half-century. While the antiquated interior is preserved, the food is the main focus in the restaurant. The steamed oxtail pudding is superb, or you can try the reasonably priced Great British classics menu.

WARMINSTER The Mulberry Restaurant 🧒 🍷 ££££

Bishopstrow House, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 9HH ***Tel*** *01985 212312*

Named after a tree in Bishopstrow House's beautiful grounds, golden-yellow Mulberry Restaurant is gracious with a Georgian feel. It may look old and rambling but its clientele is young. Enjoy light lunches and dinners overlooking acres of land and opt for the set meals. Private dining also available.

WEST BAY Riverside 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

West Bay, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4EZ ***Tel*** *01308 422011*

This restaurant boasts wonderful service, superb food and a festive atmosphere indoors. Its position as one of the best fish restaurants in the Southwest is quite an achievement, since most coastal places serve seafood. The langoustines with mayonnaise or char-grilled mackerel with chips are heavenly.

WEST BEXINGTON Manor Hotel 🧒 ££

Beach Rd, West Bexington, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9DF ***Tel*** *01308 897785*

Just when you think you've taken one coastal path too far, you'll hit upon this gorgeous old stone inn. The restaurant serves a range of delicious dishes, while the daily-changing menu features local produce and seafood. The Cellar Bar offers a selection of wines from around the world. Good cream teas, with a range of blends and local clotted cream.

WEST HATCH The Farmer's Inn 🧒 ♿ ⛱ 🍷 £££

Higher West Hatch, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 5RS ***Tel*** *01823 480480*

The Farmer's Inn serves up typically hearty British Fare. The devilled lambs' kidneys and beer-battered fish and chips are both top notch, while the interesting wine list, local ciders and well-kept real ales endorse the fantastic food. Just the ticket after a long day out walking.

WILTSHIRE The Compasses Inn 🧒 🍷 ££

Lower Chicksgrove, Tisbury SP3 6NB ***Tel*** *01722 714318*

The Compasses Inn is situated in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty. This superbly run restaurant is housed in a traditional thatched cottage and has a pleasant, relaxed atmosphere. The award-winning imaginative English and modern European menu is complimented by a good choice of wines and friendly service.

YEOVIL Little Barwick House 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Little Barwick House, Barwick, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 9TD ***Tel*** *01935 423902*

Located right on the Devon and Somerset border, this idyllic family-run hotel is a great place to stop for food while touring each county's gorgeous scenery. The decor is elegantly minimalistic, to let you focus on the fine British food, such as the roast breast of Gressingham duck. Children over five years welcome.

DEVON AND CORNWALL

AVONWICK Avon Inn 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

Avonwick, Totnes, Devon, TQ10 9NB ***Tel*** *01364 73475*

On the banks of the Avon, this dining pub owned by Dennis and Debbie is a perfect respite during a river walk. English food is prepared with a Continental twist. Specialities include the steak and ale pie and the whole roast pork hock. Enjoy with fine wines or real ales. Friendly pub quiz on Mondays.

BARNSTAPLE Terra Madre 🧒 ♫ ♿ ££

Broomhill Art Hotel, Muddiford Rd, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 4EX ***Tel*** *01271 850262*

Part of a intriguing sculpture garden art gallery and hotel, this restaurant provides a three-course gourmet lunch that can last the entire afternoon, and even push on late into the evening. An advocate of the slow food movement, expect local meat, fish and dairy; organic wine and fresh bread. Open for lunch Wed–Fri and Sun; evenings by appointment.

BARNSTAPLE The Grove Inn 🧒 ♿ ⛱ 🍷 ££

Kings Nympton, nr Barnstaple, North Devon, EX37 9ST ***Tel*** *01769 580406*

Named the Southwest Dining Pub of the Year in 2008, the Grove Inn is a firm foodie favourite in the North Devon area. Ploughmans and Sunday lunches are much recommended, as are the home-made puddings. Regular special events such as wine tasting evenings, with Lebanese canapés, complement the seasonal menus.

BIGBURY Oyster Shack 🧒 ♿ £££

Milburn Orchard Farm, Stakes Hill, Bigbury, Devon, TQ7 4BE ***Tel*** *01548 810876*

The name suggests that Oyster Shack is little more than a shack with a tarpaulin, but the front remains secondary to the unmissable food served here. The main draw is the ultra-fresh seafood: local mussels and oysters, pan-fried sardines, potted shrimp, shell-on prawns or whatever the catch of the day might be. Booking is essential.

CHAGFORD 22 Mill Street 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

22 Mill St, Chagford, Devon, TQ13 8AW ***Tel*** *01647 432244*

Nestled behind a cream-and-green shop front, this modern European restaurant lies on a street of attractive old town houses. The atmosphere is relaxing. Attention to detail, clear flavours and attractive presentation make the place worth its high prices. Tasting menu and private dining available. Closed Mon.

CHAGFORD Gidleigh Park ♿ 🍷 £££££

Gidleigh Park, Chagford Devon, TQ13 8HH ***Tel*** *01647 432367*

Officially one of the best restaurants this country has to offer, Gidleigh Park has two Michelin stars. The attention to detail is what sets it apart. Menus change according to the season, but expect fine quality whatever the month. The wine choice is also among the nation's best. Perfect for special occasions.

DARTINGTON Cott Inn 🚸 🍷 ££

Dartington, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6HE ***Tel*** *01803 863777*

Charming Cott Inn is a 14th-century restaurant-with-rooms with all the antiquated extras: exposed beams, open fireplace, horse brasses, soft lights. The restaurant has cosy cushioned pews, wall lanterns and a very reasonable menu. Check the blackboard for daily specials, and don't miss the three-course Sunday roast.

DARTMOUTH The New Angel 🚸 ♫ ♿ £££

2 South Embankment, Dartmouth, Devon, TQ6 9BH ***Tel*** *01803 839425*

Run by notorious chef John Burton-Race, this fine-dining restaurant with a French flavour serves line-caught mackerel and the like in the first floor dining room and cocktails with a view on the second floor. Unlike formal dining rooms, families are welcome in an unpretentious environment. Get there at 8.30am for coffee, croissants and cooked breakfast.

DARTMOUTH The Seahorse 🚸 ♿ ⛱ 🍷 £££

5 South Embankment, Dartmouth, South Devon, TQ6 9BH ***Tel*** *01803 835147*

Located in the heart of the historic Naval town of Dartmouth, this seafood and meat grill restaurant takes full advantage of its maritime setting. Menu options include prawns, lobster, crab, bass, scallops, turbot and more. Stylish and cosy, as you'd expect from Tatler's Restaurant of the Year 2008. Closed Sun, Mon.

DODDISCOMBSLEIGH The Nobody Inn 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££

Doddiscombsleigh, nr Exeter, Devon, EX6 7PS ***Tel*** *01647 252394*

A 16th-century country inn set in the rolling Devon countryside, Nobody Inn was renamed after an unfortunate incident with a deceased landlord. Enjoy the traditional interior and fresh local produce as well as its imaginative wine and whisky list, comprehensive selection of local cheeses and creative cooking. Unspoilt old-world charm.

EXETER Abode 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

Cathedral Yard, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1D2 ***Tel*** *01392 319955*

Local superstar chef Michael Caines presides over this fine dining restaurant situated close to Exeter Cathedral. An overnight stay at Abode, plus dinner, offers fantastic value for money. The tasting menu is outstanding; skip dessert for the superb southwest cheese selection. Champagne bar and café too.

EXETER Thai Orchid 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

5 Cathedral Yard, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1HJ ***Tel*** *01392 214215*

Authentic Thai cuisine is on offer in the 16th-century building, where the stone-masons who built Exeter's glorious cathedral originally boarded. Fresh orchids on each table are a thoughtful finishing touch. Momospice, the restaurant's private dining experience, is not to be missed.

EXETER The Jack in the Green 🚸 ♿ ⛱ 🍷 £££

Rockbeare, nr Exeter, Devon, EX5 2EE ***Tel*** *01404 822240*

Winner of a multitude of awards, The Jack specialises in British classics using locally-sourced ingredients. Whether you dine in the pub or opt for the tasting menu in the restaurant, the standard is top class. There's a large wine list, separate vegetarian menu and hearty Sunday lunch offering too.

EXMOOR The Mason's Arms 🚸 ⛱ 🍷 ££££

Knowstone, North Devon, EX36 4RY ***Tel*** *01398 341231*

Cosy 13th-century thatched inn on the Devon/Somerset border, with views of Exmoor. The Michelin-starred restaurant is headed by the former head chef of Michel Roux's Waterside Inn in Bray. Expect Modern British and French classics. The pub itself is popular with locals. Restaurant closed Sunday night and Monday.

FALMOUTH Gylly Beach Café 🚸 ♫ ♿ ⛱ ££

Cliff Rd, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 4PA ***Tel*** *01326 312884*

Friendly, award-winning beach café with spectacular coastal views of the Lizard Peninsula and Pendennis Castle. During the day it's perfect for ice-cream and coffee; by night it becomes a trendy dining spot. Dishes are made with the freshest Cornish ingredients, brunch is popular and there is occasional live music.

HONITON Combe House Hotel and Restaurant 🚸 ♿ ⛱ 🍷 ££££

Gittisham, Devon, EX14 3AD ***Tel*** *01404 540400*

This restaurant has a deserved reputation for fine food and friendly, dedicated service. Choose from select cuts of meat and game in season, including wood pigeon and pork tenderloin, or locally caught fish. All vegetables are sourced from the restaurant's kitchen garden. Extensive Chablis collection.

KINGSBRIDGE Buckland-Tout-Saints Hotel 🚸 🍷 ££££

Goveton, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 2DS ***Tel*** *01548 853055*

Set in a wonderful 1690 Grade II listed residence in the middle of lush woodland countryside, Buckland-Tout-Saints is a magnificent manor house from Queen Anne's time, with plenty of character. The restaurant serves British cuisine with a Scottish influence and focuses on local produce including West Country cheese. Menus change daily.

LAUNCESTON Blagdon Manor £££

Ashwater, Cornwall, EX21 5DF ***Tel*** *01409 211224*

This country-house hotel has some superb dining options for foodies, with local produce at the heart of its menus. Expect game from the nearby woods, local cheeses and fish fresh from the sea. Blagdon Manor is a Grade II listed building with flagstone floors and beams dating to the 1600s. Open for lunch Fri–Sun & dinner Wed–Sun. Book in advance.

LEWDOWN Lewtrenchard Manor £££££

Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4PN ***Tel*** *01566 783222*

Mentioned in the *Domesday Book* of 1086, this impressive manor was once a popular hangout of knights. Today, diners are treated to generous helpings of wholesome modern English food; seared scallops, roast duck and the like are on the menu. The showpiece attraction is The Purple Carrot, a chef's table with private view of the world-class kitchen.

LIFTON The Arundell Arms Hotel ££££

Fore St, Lifton, Devon, PL16 0AA ***Tel*** *01566 784666*

The Arundell Arms serves as an escape from the hustle and bustle. The lovely surrounding area provides activities such as fishing, riding, walking and golf. The restaurant serves fixed-price menus featuring local game and fish, created by two of Britain's official master chefs. Bar snacks are also available for lunch or dinner.

LOSTWITHIEL Muffins Tea Rooms £

32 Fore St, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0BN ***Tel*** *01208 872278*

You can't go far in Cornwall without being offered a cream tea, so why not have one of the best? Muffins is the top pick in the county for Cornish clotted cream, scones and jam. They also do great Ploughman's lunches and have a deli selling local Cornish produce. Located 5 miles (8 km) east of the Eden Project. Closed Sun, Mon.

LYNMOUTH The Rising Sun £££

Harbourside, Lynmouth, Devon, EX35 6EG ***Tel*** *01598 753223*

Percy Bysshe Shelley stayed at this 14th-century thatched smugglers' inn that overlooks a picturesque harbour and Lynmouth Bay. Lobster, fresh from the bay, literally lands at their door, as well as local Exmoor game and salmon fished from the River Lyn. Dinner is served in the romantic candlelit, oak-panelled dining room.

MARLDON Church House Inn ££

Village Rd, Marldon, Devon, TQ3 1SL ***Tel*** *01803 558279*

Located in the centre of the village, delightful Church House Inn is as old as the 14th-century church beside it. The restaurant, renowned for its traditional menu with a Mediterranean twist, serves as the centre of the local community. A perfect slice of quintessential countryside life comes with a full-bodied pint.

MAWGAN PORTH The Scarlet £££

Tredragon Rd, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall, TR8 4DQ ***Tel*** *01637 861800*

The restaurant at this design-conscious hotel has a view to rival the best in Britain. The floor-to-ceiling windows offer spectacular panoramas of the rugged Cornish coastline. The menu is pricey but impressive, with dishes such as pan-fried skate wings and roast loin of venison. Good local cider and wine-matching menu available.

NEWQUAY Fifteen Cornwall £££

On the beach, Watergate Bay, Cornwall, TR8 4AA ***Tel*** *01637 861000*

Situated right on the beach, Jamie Oliver's Fifteen is justly famous for its British food with an Italian twist. The restaurant is a short drive from bustling Newquay and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This is a popular spot for dinner, so book ahead to avoid disappointment.

PADSTOW St Petroc's £££

New St, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8EA ***Tel*** *01841 532700*

This bright and bustling bistro is tucked away behind the busy fishing harbour and is one of seafood chef Rick Stein's numerous eateries in Padstow. The French-influenced dishes include *moules marinières*, Toulouse sausages with lentils and Bayonne ham with celeriac remoulade. Booking advisable.

PADSTOW The Seafood Restaurant £££££

Riverside, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8BY ***Tel*** *01841 532700*

This imaginative fish and shellfish restaurant has been around since 1975. Just across the quay from the lobster boats and trawlers, it procures much of the fish literally straight off the boats. Expertly cooked by the chef, Rick Stein, seafood is fresh and succulent. Platters of oysters, sushi and sashimi are on offer. Children welcome up to 7pm.

PENZANCE The Cove ££

Lamorna, nr Penzance, Cornwall, TS19 6XH ***Tel*** *01736 731411*

This cosy restaurant and café is nestled in the tiny picturesque fishing village of Lamorna and has nice views over the cove. Perfect for walkers on the Cornish coastal path, the menu includes plates of charcuterie, wild mushroom risotto and delicious, chocolatey desserts. Children's high tea is available from 6–7pm.

PENZANCE Bay Restaurant £££

Britons Hill, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 3AE ***Tel*** *01736 366890*

This stylish two AA Rosette restaurant has an outdoor deck that opens out in summer for magnificent views across Mount's Bay and over the rooftops to Penzance Harbour. Generous and creative European cuisine is served by knowledgeable staff. Local fish, vegetables and herbs are complemented by excellent Cornish wine.

PENZANCE Harris's £££

46 New St, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2LZ ***Tel*** *01736 364408*

Run by the Harris family for over 30 years, this small restaurant wins acclaim for freshly made dishes served with local produce and fish from nearby Newlyn market. The daily-changing menu highlights modern British cuisine with an excellent range of fresh seafood dishes. The crab Florentine comes highly recommended. Closed Sun, Mon.

PLYMOUTH The Barbican Kitchen ££

Black Friars Distillery, 60 Southside St, The Barbican, Plymouth, PL1 2LQ ***Tel*** *01752 604448*

TV chefs Chris and James Tanner opened their brasserie in Plymouth's historic gin distillery building. The fare is a mix of classic British and Continental alongside more innovative offerings. There is also a large selection of tapas. The interior is bright and funky, and the cocktails are great.

PLYMOUTH The View ££

Treninnow Cliff Rd, Millbrook, Cornwall, PL10 1JY ***Tel*** *01752 822345*

A real find, The View overlooks Whitsand Bay on a wild stretch of coast in north Cornwall. This modern, unpretentious restaurant offers a seasonal menu with fresh fish and seafood during the warmer months and more meat dishes towards winter. All ingredients are locally sourced, and the sunset views are fantastic.

POLPERRO Kitchen ££

The Coombes, Polperro, Cornwall, PL13 2RQ ***Tel*** *01503 272780*

This delightful little restaurant serves mainly home-made food. Bread is baked daily and ice cream is made nearby. Delicious fish is garnered from Cornish day boats, with the exception of the odd exotic dish. The atmosphere is cosy and diners can often go into the kitchen for a chat and tour afterwards. Lunch and cream teas only.

PORT ISAAC Slipway Hotel and Seafood Restaurant £££

The Habour Front, Port Isaac, Cornwall, PL29 3RH ***Tel*** *01208 880264*

This quaint fish restaurant offers a perfect sample of Cornish fishy fare in season. Though there's no live music inside, diners can hear the tuneful noise of fisherman singing in the forecourt. Reasonably-priced and consistently good, with a 40-plus wine list to boot.

SALCOMBE Winking Prawn ££

Waterfront Brasserie and Garden, North Sands, Salcombe, Devon, TQ8 8LD ***Tel*** *01548 842326*

In a thickly wooded valley, this little place appears beside an empty beach. There's an evening barbecue of steak and king prawns that can be taken outside on fine days. When it rains, the restaurant offers bowls of soup and *fruits de mer*. There are also cream teas and good ice creams.

ST IVES Tate Café and Restaurant £

Porthmeor Beach, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 1TG ***Tel*** *01736 796226*

Enjoy the views over the old town of St Ives and Porthmeor Beach from this art-gallery brasserie while tucking into whole-food dishes made from produce created by Cornish growers and suppliers where possible. They stock and sell premium Cornish goods, ranging from cheese to fish, potatoes to ice cream and cider to wine. Lunch and afternoon tea only.

ST IVES Alba £££

Old Lifeboat House, Wharf Rd, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 1LF ***Tel*** *01736 797222*

With spectacular views of the bay, mesmerizing Alba is housed in the old lifeboat building. Equally breathtaking is the double AA Rosette cuisine, predominantly line-caught seafood and seasonal vegetables, all sourced locally. The accompanying wine list is as impressive. There is a separate vegetarian menu.

ST IVES Porthminster Café £££

Porthminster beach, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2EB ***Tel*** *01736 795352*

Located on the superb Porthminster beach, this bright and friendly café serves Mediterranean and Moroccan fare alongside local Cornish dishes. Oysters served with lemon or grilled with chorizo, wasabi and yuza mayonnaise are a speciality. Come for lunch to make the most of the view.

ST MAWES Hotel Tresanton ££££

27 Lower Castle Rd, St Mawes, Cornwall, TR2 5DR ***Tel*** *01326 270055*

Situated at the edge of the unspoiled village of St Mawes, the Tresanton was created in the 1940s as a yachtsmen's club. The lovely restaurant has pretty views of the sea, looking towards St Anthony's Lighthouse. The food, with a hint of Italian flair, is exquisite and benefits from the local seafood easily available. Breakfast menu and picnics available.

SUMMERCOURT Viners ££

Carvynick, Summercourt, Cornwall, TR8 5AF ***Tel*** *01872 510544*

This bar and restaurant is run by executive chef Kevin Viner, the first-ever chef in Cornwall to win a Michelin star. The interior has been tranformed with flair. The owner-chef strives to keep the dishes simple. The emphasis is on the stand-alone strength of first-rate local fish and shellfish, Cornish lamb and beef. Good vegetarian options too. Closed Mon.

TAVISTOCK The Horn of Plenty ££££

Gulworthy, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 8JD ***Tel*** *01822 832528*

With stunning views over the tranquil Tamar Valley near Tavistock in Devon, this inviting country-house hotel is set in five acres of immaculate gardens and wild orchards. The award-winning restaurant excels itself under the baton of its executive head chef, Peter Gorton. Children welcome at lunchtimes. Cookery courses available.

TOPSHAM La Petite Maison ££££

35 Fore St, Topsham, Devon, EX3 0HR ***Tel*** *01392 873660*

Situated in the attractive town of Topsham on the Exe Estuary, this small, fine-dining restaurant is popular with local diners. Lyme Bay crab and roast chump of local lamb are among the dishes served in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Make sure you save room for the West Country cheeses. Closed Mon evening.

TORQUAY The Elephant ££££

3&4 Beacon Terrace, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 2BH ***Tel*** *01803 200044*

On Torquay's harbourfront, the Elephant is one of Devon's most stylish restaurants. Local fresh food is the order of the day, and diners may choose between The Room, with its fine dining and Michelin-starred taster menu, or The Elephant, which offers a brasserie-style menu in a more relaxed atmosphere. Closed during winter.

TOTNES Willow ££

87 High St, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5PB ***Tel*** *01803 862605*

Willow holds the crown in the area for vegetarian and vegan cuisine, offering low-priced wholesome dishes and an organic wine list amid cheerful decor with a pretty courtyard at the back. The staff are helpful, and welcoming towards children. Even if you aren't vegetarian, it's still worth a visit.

TREBURLEY Springer Spaniel ££

Treburley, nr Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 9NS ***Tel*** *01579 370424*

Picturesque, award-winning Springer Spaniel is a country-food pub, set in an attractive 18th-century beamed building. The menu changes frequently, reflecting the owner's desire to use local produce, including home-grown vegetables and salads. There is also a Little Jack Russell menu for children. Staff are friendly and laid-back.

TRURO The Lugger Restaurant £££

Portloe, Truro, Cornwall, TR2 5RD ***Tel*** *01872 501322*

The boutique Lugger Hotel has superb views of pretty Portloe and the coast. The restaurant here is open for lunch and dinner and serves British and European-inspired cuisine – with a French chef at the helm, its worth trying the seafood *bouillabaisse*. In summer, the sun-drenched terrace is perfect for sipping aperitifs.

VIRGINSTOW Percy's ££££

Coombeshead Estate, Virginstow, Devon, EX21 5EA ***Tel*** *01409 211236*

Award-winning dishes burst with colour and flavour at this restaurant and hotel. The kitchen, supervised by one of Devon's top female chefs, Tina Bricknell-Webb, creates consistently good contemporary country cuisine, with a wine selection to match. The home-reared lamb is particularly recommended.

WOOLACOMBE Trimstone Manor £££

Trimstone, nr Woolacombe, North Devon, EX34 8NR ***Tel*** *01271 862841*

Just a short drive from the North Devon coast, this 17th-century hotel is set in lovely grounds. The restaurant here serves timeless classics such as grilled lemon sole, confit of duck leg and pork tenderloin. There is a bar for pre-dinner drinks and a good selection of malt whisky. A popular Sunday lunch destination, so book in advance.

THE HEART OF ENGLAND

ANSLOW The Burnt Gate ££

59 Hopley Rd, Anslow, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 9PY ***Tel*** *01283 563664*

Friendly pub and restaurant with a homely decor featuring dark wood beams and an open coal fire. This award-winning eatery serves traditional dishes made with fresh, local produce, and is well known for steak, gammon, poultry, seasonal game and a variety of seafood. Also has dedicated menus for vegetarians and coeliacs.

BIRMINGHAM Chez Jules ££

5a Ethel St, Birmingham, B2 4BG ***Tel*** *0121 633 4664*

Located in the heart of Birmingham, this busy French bistro offers simple, tasty food at surprisingly low prices. The menu includes old favourites such as *coq au vin*, moules marinières (mussels in white wine and garlic), crème brûlée and chocolate mousse, all using produce from local markets. Relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

BIRMINGHAM Titash Balti Restaurant ££

2278 Coventry Rd, Birmingham, B26 3JR ***Tel*** *0121 722 2080*

A must-try speciality here is Balti, a spicy, aromatic dish that was originally introduced by the city's large Kashmiri Pakistani community, and is cooked in a wok-like pot. The restaurant has been awarded the title "Curry Chef of the Year". An à la carte menu offers delicious food and dishes are accompanied by naan bread.

BIRMINGHAM Berlioz Restaurant £££

6 Burlington Arcade, 126 New St, Birmingham, B2 4JQ ***Tel*** *0121 633 1737*

Bright and airy, and with an undeniable historical grandeur, Berlioz is comfortably relaxed and offers impressive views over the New Street shopping area. The international cuisine is innovative and represents excellent value for money, especially the reasonable fixed-price dinner menu.

BIRMINGHAM Purnell’s ♿ 🍷 £££

55 Cornwall St, Birmingham, B3 2DH ***Tel*** *0121 212 9799*

Glynn Purnell’s Michelin-starred restaurant has forged a reputation as one of the finest in the city. Featured on the superb à la carte menu are braised ox cheek, ballotine of wood pigeon and “double” burnt English custard egg surprise. There’s also a good-value, three-course lunch menu. Reservations recommended. Closed Sun, Mon.

BIRMINGHAM The Brasserie Malmaison 🚸 ♿ £££

One Wharfside St, Birmingham, B1 1RD ***Tel*** *0121 246 5000*

The Malmaison is beautifully designed and offers a traditional French brasserie dining experience with a modern British twist and plenty of charisma. The food is beautifully presented and divinely tasty, prepared with fine-quality locally sourced ingredients. Try the loin of Shropshire venison or the baked cod fillet with garlic mash.

CHELTENHAM Brasserie Blanc 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1NN ***Tel*** *01242 266800*

Fine dining under the helm of award-winning chef Raymond Blanc. Set in an elegant Georgian building, this modern, vibrant brasserie is as well known for its cocktail bar as it is for its rich, French food. The kids menu offers a mix of haute cuisine and popular favourites such as gratinèed macaroni cheese and home-made French fries.

CHELTENHAM Le Champignon Sauvage 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

24–26 Suffolk Rd, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2AQ ***Tel*** *01242 573449*

Renowned French restaurant and winner of several awards. The interior is lovingly decorated in cream, with modern art on the walls and large, comfortable chairs for an informal dining experience. The seasonal menu has a strong emphasis on local ingredients. Eel tortellini, Wiltshire pork and pigeon breast are some of the favourites here.

CHIPPENHAM Bybrook Restaurant 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££££

Manor House Hotel and Golf Club, Castle Combe, nr Bath, Wiltshire, SN14 7HR ***Tel*** *01249 782206*

Outstanding food in a breathtaking setting in the Manor House hotel on the southern edge of the Cotswolds. Named after the Bybrook River that runs beside the hotel, this restaurant uses fresh produce from the house’s kitchen garden and orchards. Stained-glass windows offer views over the Italian garden and the adjacent golf course.

GLOUCESTER The Fountain Inn 🚸 ♿ ££

Westgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 2NW ***Tel*** *01452 522562*

With a pretty patio and delightful flower garden, this place is great for al fresco dining in the summer. Everyone is catered for, with a good mixture of mediterrannean dishes, seafood and traditional pub fare. The Sunday menu is particularly tempting.

HEREFORD Castle House 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

Castle St, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR1 2NW ***Tel*** *01432 356321*

Award-winning restaurant in the Castle House hotel. The seasonal menu here draws on fresh meat and produce delivered daily from the hotel’s farm nearby. Try the Hereford prime beef and finish with a vanilla crème brûlée with cinnamon roast pear. Also hosts a cocktail bar for a pre-meal apéritif.

LEAMINGTON SPA Newbold Bar & Brasserie 🚸 ♿ £££

18 Newbold St, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 4HN ***Tel*** *01926 424667*

Atmospheric setting and friendly service make this restaurant a favourite with the pre-theatre crowd. Occupies two floors of an airy, old Georgian building near the centre of town. The à la carte menu on the upper floor serves a wide variety of mouthwatering international cuisine, while the long bar downstairs serves bar snacks.

LITTLE BEDWYN The Harrow at Little Bedwyn 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

Little Bedwyn, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3JP ***Tel*** *01672 870871*

Rated by the *Wine Spectator* as having one of the finest restaurant wine lists in the world. This Michelin-star eatery is primarily known for its extensive collection of Australian premium wines, and diners can opt for the “tasting menu with Aussie wines” meal. Also serves an à la carte menu.

LUDLOW The Clive Restaurant with Rooms 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

Bromfield, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 2JR ***Tel*** *01584 856565*

This converted farmhouse, with 15 bedrooms, has been decorated to emphasize many of the building’s original features, including whitewashed walls and wood-beamed ceilings. The seasonal menu serves high-quality British fare, using produce from the surrounding countryside. The atmosphere is warm and informal.

PAXFORD The Churchill Arms 🚸 ♿ ££

Paxford, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6XH ***Tel*** *01386 594000*

Restaurant with four rooms on a B&B basis, set in a small, working Cotswolds village. Offers an appetizing menu of local produce to accompany the popular real ales from local breweries. The menu is constantly updated, but dishes such as grilled fish, braised local lamb shank and poached chicken are regular favourites.

ROSS-ON-WYE The Bridge Restaurant 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

The Bridge at Wilton, Herefordshire, HR9 6AA ***Tel*** *01989 562655*

Housed in a Georgian country house on the banks of the River Wye, this AA Rosette-rated restaurant attracts gourmet food enthusiasts from around the country. Head chef Paul Kelly creates unique, exciting and truly imaginative modern European dishes. Rooms also available.

SALT Holly Bush Inn ££

Salt, nr Stafford, Staffordshire, ST18 0BX ***Tel*** *01889 508234*

This picturesque country inn with a large beer garden is one of England's oldest pubs. Serves award-winning food. Dishes range from green shelled mussels to home-made steak and kidney pudding, as well as pan-fried Cornish brie. Ideal for a family stop-off point.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Marlowe's Restaurant £££

18 High St, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6AU ***Tel*** *01789 204999*

Two restaurants housed in an Elizabethan town house, in the heart of Stratford. Opt for the silver-service formal restaurant – perfect for business clients and posh events – or book a private party in the more informal bistro. Autographed pictures of visiting glitterati such as Vanessa Redgrave and Sir Alec Guinness line the bar.

SWINDON Pear Tree Restaurant ££££

Church End, Purton, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 4ED ***Tel*** *01793 772100*

AA Rosette-winning restaurant in an elegant Cotswold stone hotel on the outskirts of Purton. Has 17 luxury bedrooms and a small conservatory dining room with great views over the Marlborough Downs. Menu offers modern English cooking, including seasonal asparagus, roasted guinea fowl and delicious chocolate desserts.

TETBURY The Trouble House Inn ££

Cirencester Rd, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, GL8 8SG ***Tel*** *01666 502206*

Excellent local food in a stunning historical setting. Offers everything from the local ale to a fabulous three-course meal. Specials such as Gloucester Old Spot sausages with creamy mashed potato and onion gravy are a clear favourite. Features an atmospheric dining room with polished wooden floors, black beams and ancient fireplaces.

TITLEY The Stagg Inn & Restaurant £££

Titley, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3RL ***Tel*** *01544 230221*

Small hotel and restaurant overlooking the beautiful Welsh Marshes. A well-reputed wine list accompanies its classic menu of regional English fare. Diners have a choice of eating in the bar, the non-smoking dining room or the garden. The produce, which includes organic rare breed pork and home-cured bacon, is sourced from local shops.

ULLINGSWICK Three Crowns Inn ££

Ullingswick, nr Hereford, Herefordshire, HR1 3JQ ***Tel*** *01432 820279*

An unassuming gastropub, with one of the best-priced menus in the area, the Three Crowns Inn serves simple British favourites. Fish and other seafood make a good showing, as does traditional Welsh fare, especially the borderland cheeses. Menu highlights include the peppered sirloin of Herefordshire beef and grilled line-caught bass.

WINCHCOMBE 5 North Street £££

5 North St, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, GL54 5LH ***Tel*** *01242 604566*

Small, Michelin-starred restaurant, set in a picturesque village. The cosy interior features heavy wood beams, and has a cottage-like feel. Presents a tasty menu of traditional English fare with a French twist. Serves pork, crackling, stuffed cabbage and cider *jus*, as well as brill braised in red wine with bubble and squeak.

WINCHCOMBE Wesley House £££

Wesley House, High St, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, GL54 5LJ ***Tel*** *01242 602366*

Hotel and restaurant in the old Cotswolds town of Winchcombe. The food here is simple, with an emphasis on seasonal local ingredients. Specialities to look out for include beef wellington and roasted duck breast. Keep some space for the delicious home-made desserts, such as the outstanding bakewell tart.

WISTANSTOW The Plough Inn £

Wistanstow, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 8DG ***Tel*** *01588 673251*

Timeless village pub with a warm and welcoming ambience. The inn may look unexceptional from outside, but the menu makes it well worth the visit. A great choice for family Sunday lunches. Home-made chutneys and sauces all add to the charm. Fabulous real ale is provided by the brewery located next door.

WORCESTER King Charles II Restaurant ££

29 New St, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR1 2DP ***Tel*** *01905 22449*

Historic restaurant serving international cuisine. The decor is stylish, and features fine lace tablecloths, crystal glasses and an elegant ambience. It was from here that King Charles II escaped Cromwell's forces after his defeat in the Battle of Worcester in 1651. There is a dungeon situated in the restaurant.

EAST MIDLANDS

BAKEWELL Renaissance ££

Bath St, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1BX ***Tel*** *01629 812687*

An atractively converted barn houses this relaxed restaurant serving traditional French cuisine made from fresh local produce. Light starters such as blue cheese soufflé with leek casserole prepare the appetite for the rich and hearty main courses to follow. If there's room, try one of the original and beautifully presented desserts.

Key to Price Guide *see p608* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

BASLOW Fischer’s £££££

Baslow Hall, Calver Rd, Baslow, Derbyshire, DE45 1RR ***Tel*** *01246 583259*

An award-winning restaurant, located in a popular country-house hotel on the edge of the Chatsworth estate. The Michelin-starred menu serves dishes made using the local produce; some from Chatsworth’s farm shop. Venison, wild hare and spring lamb provide the seasonal highlights. Dress code is smart casual.

BECKINGHAM Black Swan ££

Hillside, Beckingham, Lincolnshire, LN5 0RQ ***Tel*** *01636 626474*

Fabulous country inn serving French and modern English cuisine. This friendly and welcoming restaurant has been winning awards for the past 20 years. Dishes are made from locally sourced produce. Favourites such as Colston Bassett Stilton make its mark on the three-course table d’hote menu. Patio dining available in summer.

CAUNTON Caunton Beck ££

Main St, Caunton, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6AB ***Tel*** *01636 636793*

Lovingly run gastropub in a delightfully restored 16th-century ale house. The family friendly restaurant has a welcoming ambience, and a modern European menu that is served at any time of the day. Also features a large and popular outdoor terrace in the summer.

CHESTERFIELD Buckinghams £££

85–87 Newbold Rd, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 7PU ***Tel*** *01246 201041*

Hotel and unusual restaurant, with just one table that seats up to eight diners. The chef consults with the guests before the meal, and provides a unique, “surprise” seasonal menu depending on their requirements and wishes. The setting is cosy, and the decor elegant. The hotel also offers cooking courses.

CLIPSHAM Olive Branch £££

Main St, Clipsham, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 7SH ***Tel*** *01780 410355*

A country pub, housed in three adjacent cottages that were joined in 1890 and later renovated. This delightful eatery has a reputation for fine dining and holds a Michelin star. In addition to a wide range of delicious regional dishes, the gastropub also offers sloe gin and damson vodka. The decor is traditional, with antique furnishings.

COLSTON BASSETT Martins Arms Inn £££

School Lane, Colston Bassett, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG12 3FD ***Tel*** *01949 81361*

Well-reputed for its game and fish, not to mention the Stilton produced in the village of Colston Bassett itself. Provides a great stopping-off point in the agricultural haven of the Vale of Belvoir. The food is modern European making the most of local ingredients. A welcoming fire and comfortable sofas add to the informal ambience.

DAVENTRY Fawsley Hall ££££

Fawsley, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 3BA ***Tel*** *01327 892000*

Magnificent Tudor country-house hotel with a panoramic restaurant. Offers some of the best desserts in the country. The dark chocolate tart and banana ice cream warrants a visit in itself. The main courses, which include dishes such as rabbit with langoustine and bass stuffed with crab, all add to the richness. The menu changes regularly.

FOTHERINGHAY The Falcon Inn ££

Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire, PE8 5HZ ***Tel*** *01832 226254*

Welcoming inn known as much for its selective wine list as it is for its real ales. International menu featuring pub fare as it should be served. Whole roast sea bass, char-grilled pave of lamb and sirloin steak with thyme *salmoriglio* (an Italian sauce) are some of the notable options. Log fires and eclectic decoration add to the effect.

LEICESTER Sayonara Thali £

49 Belgrave Rd, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE4 6AR ***Tel*** *0116 2665 888*

Popular South Indian restaurant on Leicester’s Golden Mile, so-called for its gold jewellery shops. Serves thali food – curry dishes served on a large metal plate along with chapatis and deep fried bread made with plain flour. Delicious milk drinks flavoured with pistachio and cardamom are also available.

LEICESTER Alloro ££

29 Millstone Lane, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE1 5JN ***Tel*** *0116 291 0004*

Elegant restaurant in a converted factory; the menus here present a wide range of traditional Italian dishes including seafood risotto and fillet steak. The two-course lunch and dinner specials are good value and there is a bar area where you can enjoy a coffee after dinner.

LEICESTER The Case ££

4–6 Hotel St, St Martins, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE1 5AW ***Tel*** *0116 251 7675*

A modern European menu with an English twist. This trendy restaurant has built a reputation for innovative and imaginative cuisine. Specials include grilled lemon sole with prawn, lemon and caper brown butter, and Cajun-spiced monkfish on bubble and squeak. Features wine-tasting evenings.

LINCOLN Jews House ££

15 The Strait, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN2 1JD ***Tel*** *01522 524851*

Reputedly Lincoln’s oldest building, this l2th-century, Jewish merchant’s house is also the town’s most famous restaurant. Located beside the town’s cathedral, the venue is small, cosy and exclusive; advance booking is recommended. A well-stocked wine cellar accompanies a menu featuring a mix of British and French cuisines.

MATLOCK The Red House 🍷 £££

Old Rd, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 2ER ***Tel*** *01629 734854*

Country-house hotel with just ten bedrooms. This small, AA Rosette-awarded restaurant is well reputed in Derbyshire for its panoramic dining room and home-made cuisine. Locally sourced ingredients create such dishes as baked duck with red cabbage and fillet of venison with red wine *jus*. The dress code is smart casual.

MELTON MOWBRAY The Gringling Gibbons 🚸 £££

Stapleford Park, nr Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 2EF ***Tel*** *01572 787015*

A highly renowned restaurant, set in a tranquil country hotel and spa. The menu is traditionally English with an emphasis on fish, including seared turbot with braised baby fennel and roast John Dory with smoked eel. Also offers a children's menu. Smart casual attire is requested in the restaurant.

NEWHAVEN Carriages Italian Restaurant 🚸 ♿ £££

Newhaven, nr Hartingdon, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 0DU ***Tel*** *01298 84528*

Heartwarming Italian welcome followed by an appetizing variety of traditional Sicilian cuisine and fresh seafood. The decor features two railway carriages bedecked with velvet armchairs and period style table lamps. Favourites include *saltimbocca alla Romana* (veal medallions) and *filetto al Dolcelatte* (fillet steaks with blue cheeses and port).

NEWTON-LINFORD Gibson's Grey Lady 🚸 ♿ £££

Sharpley Hill, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, LE6 0AH ***Tel*** *01530 243558*

Scenic restaurant set in a quaint thatched cottage. This charming eatery prides itself on using the freshest ingredients for preparing its dishes. House specialities include steak, braised shank of lamb and grilled Dover sole. Also features a delightful selection of home-made chocolate desserts. An idyllic, relaxing spot.

NORTH KILWORTH Wordsworth Restaurant 🚸 ♿ ££££

Lutterworth Rd, N Kilworth, Leicestershire, LE17 6JE ***Tel*** *01858 880058*

This elegant restaurant is located in the Kilworth House Hotel, and provides an attractive setting for an evening meal. The classy interior features glittering chandeliers, a domed ceiling and stained-glass windows. Treats such as sweetbread salad with grape compote and white gazpacho with pepper jelly are on offer.

NOTTINGHAM Hart's 🚸 ♿ ££

1 Standard Court, Park Row, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG1 6GN ***Tel*** *0115 911 0666*

Impressive hotel and restaurant, well known for its fantastic British cooking. Food is sourced locally, but given an international twist, which produces such dishes as honey-glazed Gressingham duck breast with pak choi. Fabulous desserts include white chocolate parfait with mixed berries and espresso parfait with amaretto sabayon.

NOTTINGHAM Sinatra ♿ ⛱ ££

8–16 Chapel Quarter Nottingham, NG1 6JQ ***Tel*** *0115 941 1050*

Offering excellent-value fare, Sinatra is located in Nottingham's Chapel Quarter, close to Market Square. There is a bistro for snacks and light lunches, and a more formal restaurant serving evening meals. Coffees and cocktails are available at the bar. This is a popular place for Sunday lunch, so book in advance.

NOTTINGHAM Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem 🚸 ££

Brewhouse Yard, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG1 6AD ***Tel*** *0115 947 3171*

With ancient cellar rooms and engravings on the walls, the atmosphere of Britain's oldest pub doesn't disappoint. The food is typical pub fare with a strong local influence. Ploughman's salad and chicken tikka masala make an appearance, as does Stilton and vegetable crumble and rump steak.

NOTTINGHAM World Service ♿ 🍷 ££££

Newdigate House, Castlegate, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG1 6AF ***Tel*** *01158 475587*

An award-winning restaurant, this eatery has fast gained a reputation for serving outstanding local produce with an Eastern twist. Organic salmon comes with beetroot and orange salsa, while fried monkfish tail is accompanied with a curry sauce. The bar provides the perfect setting for a pre-meal drink.

PLUMTREE Perkins 🚸 ♿ ££

Old Railway Station, Plumtree, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG12 5NA ***Tel*** *0115 937 3695*

Friendly restaurant and bar, occupying a converted, late 19th-century village station. The main restaurant extends into a conservatory and garden patio. The seasonal menu changes every four weeks, and features everything from leek and rosemary soup to local Clipston fillet steak.

STAMFORD Berritos 🚸 🍷 £££

1–2 Castle St, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 2RA ***Tel*** *01780 762739*

Stylish restaurant occupying an elegant 17th-century, stone building in Stamford's medieval town centre. The terrace seating overlooks Wellend River, home to weeping willows, oak trees and varied wildfowl and bird life. The menu features traditional American fare. Ideal for nature lovers.

WINTERINGHAM Winteringham Fields 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££££

Silver St, Winteringham, Lincolnshire, DN15 9ND ***Tel*** *01724 733096*

Gastronomic hotspot in a rambling old 16th-century manor house hotel, beautifully set in a peaceful country village. With five AA Rosettes, the award-winning menu doesn't disappoint. Try the six-course surprise menu for the region's and season's best cuisine. A wide variety of seafood, poultry, game and delicious desserts.

LANCASHIRE AND THE LAKES

AMBLESIDE Drunken Duck Inn 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Barngates, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0NG ***Tel*** *0153 9436347*

Oak beams and open log fires create a traditional setting in this 400-year-old inn. Serves imaginative dishes in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. The varied menu features specialities such as smoked haddock and pan-fried monkfish with sautéed baby leeks. Guests can also sample the delicious home-brewed beers.

AMBLESIDE Rothay Manor Hotel and Restaurant 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Rothay Bridge, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0EH ***Tel*** *01539 433605*

Renowned for its afternoon teas, this comfortable, family-run hotel and restaurant offers outstanding service. The smoked salmon and breast of guinea fowl served with wild mushrooms, asparagus and champagne and cream sauce are among the tempting dishes offered.

AMBLESIDE The Samling 🧒 🍷 ££££

Ambleside Rd, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA23 1LR ***Tel*** *015394 31922*

This delightful, award-winning restaurant offers dining in unashamed comfort. Line-caught sea bass, hand-dived scallops and succulent Herdwick lamb are some of the dishes on the gourmet menu. The well-stocked cellar holds choice wines from across the world, plus some fine old whiskies.

BLACKBURN Northcote 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Northcote Rd, Langho, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB6 8BE ***Tel*** *01254 240555*

Set within the refined luxury of a 19th-century country house, the emphasis in this award-winning restaurant is on superlative cooking. Chef Nigel Haworth's inventiveness focuses on seasonal regional produce, creating some unique twists to local dishes. Black pudding and pink trout served with mustard and nettle sauce is a signature dish.

BLACKPOOL Seniors 🧒 ♿ £

106 Normoss Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY3 8QP ***Tel*** *01253 393529*

This excellent fish and chip restaurant has a host of loyal customers. As well as the usual cod and haddock, other fish varieties include John Dory fillets, silver hake, halibut, monk tail and lemon sole, plus a regular catch of the day. Bright and colourful dining environment and friendly atmosphere.

CARLISLE Keez Bistro 🧒 ££

50–52 Cecil St, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 1NT ***Tel*** *01228 590670*

This contemporary bistro offers simple classic dishes from around the world. The small menu changes each month, and the ingredients are largely locally sourced. There's also a good choice of hand-picked wines. Friendly, professional staff and flocks of returning customers. Closed Sun, Mon.

CARTMEL Uplands 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Haggs Lane, Cartmel, Cumbria, LA11 6HD ***Tel*** *01539 536248*

A family-run hotel and restaurant, which enjoys several repeat customers. Serves modern British cooking in the relaxed and comfortable setting of an Edwardian gentleman's residence. The four-course set dinner provides options at each course, and includes a tureen of home-made soup served with delicious bread, hot from the oven.

CARTMEL L'Enclume Restaurant with Rooms ♿ 🍷 £££££

Cavendish St, Cartmel, Cumbria, LA11 6PZ ***Tel*** *01539 536362*

Dining at this former village smithy is nothing short of a culinary adventure; a definite stop for discerning foodies. Award-winning chef Simon Rogan's bold and creative style explores unusual ingredients such as myrrh and ancient herbs. Choose from the à la carte menu or try one of the taste-and-texture menus offering 20 mini-taster courses.

COCKERMOUTH Quince and Medlar 🧒 🍷 ££

11–13 Castlegate, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9EU ***Tel*** *01900 823579*

A historic, Georgian building near Cockermouth Castle is home to this family-run, vegetarian restaurant. The stylish surroundings enhance the intimate candlelit dinners. For 18 years, this eatery has been serving imaginative dishes, exploiting modern vegetarian cuisine to the full and drawing inspiration from around the world.

GRANGE-OVER-SANDS Lymestone Restaurant 🧒 🍷 £££

Kents Bank Rd, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7EY ***Tel*** *01539 533076*

Set in the family-run Lymehurst hotel, the Lymestone Restaurant is headed by chef Kevin Wyper. The menu features British classics, often with a modern twist, that are made up of only the best locally sourced seasonal ingredients. Choose from the three-course dining menu or the daily specials board.

KENDAL New Moon Restaurant 🧒 ♿ ££

129 Highgate, Kendal, LA9 4EN ***Tel*** *01539 729254*

With its popular British menu, New Moon is one of the best restaurants in the area. It has a contemporary interior, along with a relaxed atmosphere, and offers good-value, two-course set lunches and early-evening dinners. The chef is more than happy to adapt dishes to suit dietary sensitivities, so do ask. Occasional wine-tasting evenings too.

KENDAL Bridge Street £££

Bridge St, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7DD ***Tel*** *01539 738855*

Set in a Georgian building overlooking the River Kent, the small dining rooms of this popular restaurant make for an intimate dining experience. Chef Julian Ankers exploits the flavours of traditional English fare and local produce to create exciting and tasty dishes.

KESWICK Rumours Bar and Restaurant ££

Penrith Rd, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4HF ***Tel*** *01768 771119*

This well-established Lake District pub offers traditional British fare alongside lighter snacks such as sandwiches, paninis and salads; all food is prepared fresh on the premises. The bar is popular with locals who also come for the pub quizzes, dance nights and karaoke, held on Thursdays and Sundays.

LIVERPOOL The Side Door ££

29A Hope St, Liverpool, Merseyside, L1 9BQ ***Tel*** *0151 707 7888*

Located midway between the city's two cathedrals, this friendly restaurant offers imaginative modern British and European cooking, but biased towards local cuisine. Expect to be guided through the carefully selected wine list, which features many unusual varieties from both the old and new world.

LIVERPOOL 60 Hope Street £££

60 Hope St, Liverpool, Merseyside, L1 9BZ ***Tel*** *0151 707 6060*

Ideal for a casual meal, the Café Bar in the basement serves a range of light meals, from sandwiches and salads to more substantial dishes. For a formal setting, choose the restaurant, which offers modern European cuisine within relaxed and unpretentious surroundings. The wine selection complements the food.

LIVERPOOL Simply Heathcotes £££

25 The Strand, Beetham Plaza, Liverpool, Merseyside, L2 0XL ***Tel*** *0151 236 3536*

Overlooking the waterfront in the heart of the city, this lively, modern restaurant turns everyday food into a feast. There is something for everyone, from a light snack to a full evening dinner. Traditional dishes such as home-made black puddings and bread-and-butter pudding are popular, or visit on a gourmet evening for something special.

LONGRIDGE The Longridge Restaurant £££

104–106 Higher Rd, Longridge, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 3SY ***Tel*** *01772 784969*

Opened in 1990, this is acclaimed chef Paul Heathcote's flagship restaurant. Traditional local dishes such as black pudding and bread-and-butter pudding appear beside more flamboyant creations based on Goosnargh chicken and duck. The reasonably priced, two-course lunch is of great value.

MANCHESTER Earth Café £

16–20 Turner Street, Northern Quarter, Manchester, M4 1DZ ***Tel*** *0161 834 1996*

This popular, award-winning vegetarian restaurant is located in the basement of the Manchester Buddhist Centre. As you would expect, the food is fair-trade and vegan, befitting Buddhist spiritual principles. An excellent place for creative wholesome dishes; the vegan dark chocolate cheesecake is superb.

MANCHESTER El Rincon de Rafa ££

Off St Johns Street, 244 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 4BQ ***Tel*** *0161 839 8819*

Standout tapas from this popular, lively and atmospheric Spanish basement restaurant staffed largely by Spaniards. Try the *patatas bravas*, *albondigas* and the *chorizo al vino*; the paella is also excellent. Wash it all down with a jug of sangria. It can get very busy here, so book ahead, especially at weekends.

MANCHESTER Restaurant Bar & Grill £££

14 John Dalton St, Manchester, Lancashire, M2 6JR ***Tel*** *0161 839 1999*

This vibrant, modern restaurant, close to many of Manchester's major venues, is a popular city-centre meeting place, both at lunch time and in the evening. Asian influences colour the à la carte menu with dishes such as Malay spiced chicken or crispy duck on Chinese greens.

MANCHESTER The Moss Nook Restaurant £££

Ringway Rd, Manchester, Lancashire, M22 5WA ***Tel*** *0161 437 4778*

Everything on the menu is a speciality at this fine restaurant, located close to Manchester Airport. On offer is French-style cuisine including lobster and foie gras. The pan-fried scallops and crispy roast duckling are particularly recommended. In good weather, the garden terrace offers a delightfully relaxed setting for a meal.

MANCHESTER The River Restaurant £££

Lowry Hotel, 50 Dearman's Place, Salford, Manchester, M3 5LH ***Tel*** *0161 827 4003*

This chic, modern restaurant offers a high level of personalized service and meticulous attention to detail. The executive head chef and his team have created a British menu that draws upon the finest seasonal and local ingredients, with an emphasis on classic foods and flavours.

MANCHESTER Yang Sing £££

34 Princess St, Manchester, Lancashire, M1 4JY ***Tel*** *0161 236 2200*

A highly acclaimed Chinese restaurant, and a culinary experience not to be missed. Expert waiters guide you through the extensive, 400 dish menu to create an individual banquet that perfectly suits your taste. Features a good range of Chinese beers.

Key to Price Guide *see p608* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

MELMERBY Village Bakery ££

Melmerby, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1HE ***Tel*** *01768 881811*

The smell of fresh bread and home baking greet guests as they enter this popular restaurant. Noted for its warm and unfussy service, the eatery makes use of the best seasonal and organic produce available locally. Fare includes hearty breakfasts, wholesome lunches (with hot and cold selections) and teas, as well as tasty treats through the day.

PENRITH The George and Dragon ££

Clifton, Penrith, CA10 2ER ***Tel*** *01768 865 381*

Cosy, warm and welcoming, with bare wood tables, The George and Dragon occupies an 18th-century coaching inn. The gourmet menu is concocted with imagination, and the seasonal produce is supplied by the Lowther estate. A strong wine list matches the excellent menu. There are lovely rooms upstairs for those wishing to stay the night.

PRESTON Angelos Ristorante and Pizzeria ££

33–35 Aversham St, Preston, PR1 3BN ***Tel*** *01772 257133*

This traditional Italian restaurant is located in the city centre and offers a wide range of old Italian favourites. There's a large selection of pizzas as well as good risottos and meat grills. The wine list is made up exclusively of Italian wines, all sourced directly from small, family-run vineyards in Italy. Closed on Mondays.

SAWREY Ees Wyke Country House £££

Ees Wyke Country House, nr Sawrey, Cumbria, LA22 0JZ ***Tel*** *015394 36393*

Formerly the holiday home of Beatrix Potter and close to Hill Top, this charming restaurant is set in one of the most beautiful parts of the Lake District. The five-course set dinner is served in a small and intimate dining room. The menu changes daily and only local produce is used. Eight rooms are available for accommodation.

SILVERDALE Wolf House Gallery ££

Lindeth Rd, Silverdale, Lancashire, LA5 0TX ***Tel*** *01524 701405*

Set within a discerning arts and crafts gallery, in lovely limestone countryside overlooking Morecambe Bay, this friendly café, which is open during the day, has home-made soups, tasty snacks and a tempting range of home baking. On Friday and Saturday evenings, it offers an unusual venue for fine dining, but bring your own wine.

TROUTBECK Queens Head £££

Queen's Head, Troutbeck, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1PW ***Tel*** *01539 432174*

Flag floors, oak beams and an Elizabethan four-poster bar are some of the timeless features of this 17th-century inn. The atmosphere is homely, and the food traditional. Try the roast loin of venison with redcurrant and red wine *jus*. While there is a good choice of wines, it is a great place to taste local ales such as Coniston Bluebird and Jennings.

ULLSWATER Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel £££££

Lake Ullswater, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 2LZ ***Tel*** *01768 486301*

Traditional country house, superbly located in its vast grounds beside idyllic Ullswater. Sample Michelin-starred cuisine from a six-course menu that has evolved over time, but where time-honoured favourites such as Stilton, onion and spinach soufflé or fillet of salmon with lemon and martini sauce make regular appearances. Caters for children over ten.

ULVERSTON The Bay Horse Hotel £££

The Bay Horse Hotel, Canal Foot, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 9EL ***Tel*** *01229 583972*

An 18th-century inn, once serving coaches crossing the Morecambe Bay sands. This comfortable, family-run hotel and restaurant on the banks of Leven enjoys outstanding views of both the Cumbrian and Lancashire fells. The menu is equally superb and draws on fresh local ingredients such as shrimps, wild salmon and salt marsh lamb.

WATERMILLOCK The Rampsbeck Country House Hotel £££

Watermillock, Ullswater, Cumbria, CA11 0LP ***Tel*** *01768 486442*

Fantastic views and fine dining are some of the highlights of this 18th-century country house, located on the shores of Ullswater, in one of the most picturesque corners of the Lake District. The AA Rosette-winning restaurant serves imaginative dishes, using regional delicacies such as wild salmon, rabbit, Cumbrian ham and local lamb.

WHITEWELL Inn at Whitewell £££

Whitewell, Forest of Bowland, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 3AT ***Tel*** *01200 448222*

Dating back to the 15th century, this remote inn originally provided a welcome rest to travellers passing through the wilds of the Trough of Bowland, on their way to Lancaster. The stunning location is matched by the cooking of chef Jamie Cadman, whose contemporary style of British cooking incorporates many seasonal local specialities.

WINDERMERE Holbeck Ghyll Country House Hotel ££££

Holbeck Lane, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1LU ***Tel*** *01539 432375*

Set in a 19th-century hunting lodge, this intimate, Michelin-star restaurant (voted Cumbrian Restaurant of the Year) has good views across the lake. Serves English cuisine which reflects just a hint of France. The set dinner offers a range of choices at each course, such as scallops or langoustine followed by beef, pigeon or venison, with a port-based sauce.

WINDERMERE Miller Howe ££££

Rayrigg Rd, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1EY ***Tel*** *01539 442536*

A delightful restaurant that serves fine gourmet food in striking surroundings. Try the chef's set evening menu, which includes recommendations from the extensive wine list, or replace any course with the à la carte alternatives. Also offers a range of imaginative vegetarian options. Occasional live music.

WRIGHTINGTON BAR The Mulberry Tree £££

9 Wood Lane, Wrightington Bar, Standish, Wigan, Lancashire, WN6 9SE ***Tel*** *01257 451400*

The restaurant of this former local pub has an enviable reputation for imaginative cuisine. French influences add an unexpected twist to typically English dishes. Try the entrée of black pudding topped with a poached egg and hollandaise sauce, followed by roast loin of cod on a saffron and spring pea risotto. Look for reasonably priced specials.

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER REGION

ASENBY Crab and Lobster £££

Crab Manor, Dishforth Rd, Asenby, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO7 3QL ***Tel*** *01845 577286*

Step back into time at this charming seafood eatery, decorated with antiques and artifacts. The chef's signature dish is lobster Thermidor, but the fish and chips is equally good. Lamb and chicken dishes are also featured on the menu. Located in the quiet countryside of the Vale of York and not far from Ripon. Jazz music on Sunday lunchtimes.

BOLTON ABBEY Devonshire Arms Brasserie £££

The Devonshire Arms Country House Hotel, Bolton Abbey, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 6AJ ***Tel*** *01756 710710*

Fringing the Yorkshire Dales and close to Bolton Priory, this characterful coaching inn has been in the family of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire since 1753. The setting here is informal and relaxed, and the cuisine is a blend of modern British and French. Most of the dishes are available as either starters or main courses.

BOROUGHBRIDGE thediningroom £££

20 St James Square, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, YO51 9AR ***Tel*** *01423 326426*

Overlooking the Georgian square of a small market town, this cosy and friendly eating place is highly popular with the locals. Fish features prominently on the menu, which offers dishes best described as modern English. Everything is home-made and locally sourced where possible, and there is a good selection of wines and champagne.

BURNSALL The Devonshire Fell Hotel and Bistro £££

Burnsall, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 6BT ***Tel*** *01756 729000*

Originally a club for 19th-century gentlemen mill owners, this hotel and restaurant is situated on a hillside, and offers spectacular views over Wharfedale. A bright and colourful bar leads to an inviting dining room. The menu is a medley of new cuisine with French overtones.

EAST WITTON The Blue Lion £££

E Witton, nr Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4SN ***Tel*** *01969 624273*

Former coaching inn full of character, on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales and not far from Jervaulx Abbey. The home-prepared food, available both in the bar and restaurant, ranges from traditional hearty dishes, such as steak and kidney pudding, to more exotic creations reflecting Asian influences. Extensive wine list and hand-drawn beers.

ELLAND La Cachette ££££

31 Huddersfield Rd, Elland, West Yorkshire, HX5 9AW ***Tel*** *01422 378833*

A busy and highly popular brasserie-style restaurant serving modern British food in a Mediterranean ambience. Fish features prominently on the menu, and there is a good choice of daily specials as well. The light, two-course lunch is of great value and the three-course dinner includes a half bottle of wine. The à la carte menu is extensive.

FERRENSBY The General Tarleton Inn ££

Boroughbridge Rd, Ferrensby, nr Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, HG5 0PZ ***Tel*** *01423 340284*

Named after a British general in the American War of Independence, this former, 18th-century coaching inn is renowned for its excellent fish dishes such as seafood thermidor. Although the wine list is extensive, real ale fans can opt for a pint of Black Sheep or Timothy Taylor's, two of the best beers in the area.

HALIFAX Design House £££

Dean Clough (Gate 5), Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX3 5AX ***Tel*** *01422 383242*

A stylishly modern restaurant set within a former mill, which has found a new lease of life as the Dean Clough Arts and Business Complex. There is a distinct Mediterranean feel to the place. Tapas and lighter meals are popular during the day. The three-course set menu is of excellent value, while in the evening, there is full à la carte.

HAROME The Star Inn £££

Harome, nr Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO62 5JE ***Tel*** *01439 770397*

This attractive, 14th-century thatched inn exudes rustic charm, with original cow byres and a dormitory formerly used by travelling monks. The intimate, award-winning restaurant serves traditional British fare, and is justifiably popular. Advance reservations are recommended. The same menu is served in the bar.

HARROGATE Drum and Monkey ££

5 Montpellier Gardens, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 2TF ***Tel*** *01423 502650*

Elegant, but unpretentious, the old world ambience of this superb fish and seafood restaurant reflects the traditional character of the famous spa town of Harrogate. Dine in either the bar or the restaurant above. Dishes such as queen scallops with cheese and garlic butter, fisherman's pie and the shellfish platter are popular choices.

HAWORTH Weaver's 🚸 🍷 ££

15–17 W Lane, Haworth, West Yorkshire, BD22 8DU ***Tel*** *01535 643822*

This long-established restaurant is set within three 17th-century weaver's cottages that once incorporated a café frequented by the Brontës. Flagged floors, bric-à-brac, low lighting and intimate alcoves in the dining room add to the atmosphere. Northern regional cooking is the hallmark, a popular choice being the Whitby fisherman's pie.

HETTON Angel Inn 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

Hetton, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 6LT ***Tel*** *01756 730263*

Pioneering gastropub in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. Wooden beams, nooks and crannies and log fires re-create the atmosphere of a bygone era. Dine in either the elegant restaurant or the more informal bar-brasserie. The separate menus offer a range of interesting dishes, including a substantial choice of vegetarian and gluten-free options.

HUSTHWAITE The Balmoral 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

Low St, Husthwaite, North Yorkshire, YO61 4QA ***Tel*** *01347 868007*

This former village pub has been transformed into a restaurant offering traditional British fare. Features an outside terrace, perfect for al fresco dining on sunny days or balmy evenings. There is an exciting à la carte menu or, for more informal meals, choose from the speciality sandwiches. There is also an early bird menu.

ILKLEY Box Tree 🚸 🍷 £££

35–37 Church St, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, LS29 9DR ***Tel*** *01943 608484*

Enjoy fine dining in the luxurious setting of one of Ilkley's oldest buildings. Awarded a Michelin star, the cuisine is modern French and draws upon the best of local and regional produce. The menu changes constantly, but dishes such as the hand-dived scallops served with white truffle oil are highly recommended.

LEEDS Sous le Nez en Ville 🚸 🍷 ££

The Basement, Quebec House, Quebec Street, Leeds, LS1 2HA ***Tel*** *0113 244 0108*

Renowned for its good food and excellent service, the long-established Sous le Nez is one of the most acclaimed restaurants in Leeds. The menu is typically French – try the gateau of fillet steak stuffed with shallots – and there is an excellent-value early evening *menu de soire* that includes half a bottle of wine.

LEEDS Chino Latino ♫ ♿ 🍷 £££

Boar Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS1 6EA ***Tel*** *0113 380 4080*

Located in the city centre, Chino Latino offers an innovative fusion of Far East cuisine combining the delicate flavours of Chinese, Thai, South East Asian and modern Japanese food. Before dining, try a cocktail in the Latino bar. Relaxed atmosphere and good wine list.

LEEDS Anthony's Restaurant 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££££

19 Boar Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS1 6EA ***Tel*** *0113 245 5922*

Close to the station, passers-by would be surprised to find a restaurant of such gastronomic ambition among the everyday shops and bars. Complex constructions and compelling flavour juxtapositions are what to expect: roast duck with apple or seared tuna with broccoli puree and roast rhubarb, for instance.

OSMOTHERLEY Golden Lion 🚸 ♿ £££

6 W End, Osmotherley, North Yorkshire, DL6 3AA ***Tel*** *01609 883526*

Traditional country pub in a picturesque village of 17th-century stone cottages. Serves as a starting point for the Lyke Wake Walk, and is close to Mount Grace Priory. Very popular with hill walkers, the pub offers well cooked, wholesome food using fresh local produce. The steak and kidney pie and tasty casseroles are firm favourites. Vegetarian options too.

RAMSGILL IN NIDDERDALE The Yorke Arms 🍷 ££££

Ramsgill-in-Nidderdale, Pateley Bridge, nr Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 5RL ***Tel*** *01423 755243*

Acclaimed chef Frances Atkins is one of only six female chefs in the country to gain the coveted Michelin star. Her creative dishes in the modern British style are superb, using seasonal meats, fish and game in unusual combinations. Discreet service in the relaxing ambience of this 17th-century shooting lodge makes dining here a real pleasure.

RIDGEWAY The Old Vicarage 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££££

Ridgeway Moor, Ridgeway Village, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S12 3XW ***Tel*** *01142 475814*

Michelin-starred restaurant set within a Victorian vicarage. Welcoming winter log fires and an attractive garden terrace for apéritifs on balmy evenings are some of the attractions here. Produce from the kitchen garden and seasonal delicacies, often combined with unexpected ingredients, are at the heart of the inventive dishes on offer.

RIPLEY The Boar's Head Hotel 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Ripley, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 3AY ***Tel*** *01423 771888*

A former coaching inn beside the castle, in the heart of a charming estate village. The menus are nothing short of inspirational, whether you dine in the elegant restaurant or the more casual and informal setting of the bistro. Seasonal fish, meat and game feature prominently on the menu.

ROBINS HOOD'S BAY Wayfarer Bistro 🚸 ♿ ⛱ ££

Station Road, Robin Hood's Bay, Nr Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4RL ***Tel*** *01947 880240*

Excellent fish and seafood dishes are a feature of this successful bistro-cum-B&B on the stunning North Yorkshire coast. Meat options include great chargrilled steaks and vegetarians are also catered for. Great value and warm, welcoming atmosphere. Rooms available.

SHEFFIELD Zeugma £

146 London Road, Sheffield, S2 4LT ***Tel*** *0114 2582223*

Marvellous Turkish grills are the speciality here. Diners can watch their *cop shish* (marinated chunks of lamb) or *kaburga* (lamb spare ribs) being cooked over hot charcoal. Other options include grilled vegetable kebabs and plenty of meat-free starters. Bring your own wine (£2.95 corkage fee).

SHEFFIELD Greenhead House £££

84 Burncross Rd, Chapeltown, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S35 1SF ***Tel*** *0114 246 9004*

Set within a 17th-century house to the north of Sheffield. Features a delightful walled garden, a comfortable lounge warmed by open fires and an intimate dining room that creates a distinctively homely feel. The husband and wife team offer carefully prepared dishes in an all-inclusive meal, supported by a comprehensive selection of wines.

SOWERBY BRIDGE The Millbank ££

Mill Bank Rd, Mill Bank, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX6 3DY ***Tel*** *01422 825588*

This country pub lies in a small Pennine village, not far from the bustling towns of Halifax and Hebden Bridge. Bare floors and chunky furniture create a contemporary feel, while the garden offers a splendid view along the valley. Serves traditional food with a modern twist. An unusual feature of the bar is its extensive range of gins.

STOKESLEY Chapter's £££

27 High St, Stokesley, Middlesborough, North Yorkshire, TS9 5AD ***Tel*** *01642 711888*

Set in a refurbished and characterful Grade II listed building, this stylish eatery overlooks Stokesley's market square, below the northern escarpment of the Cleveland Hills. Dine in the gourmet restaurant or the more casual brasserie bar. Serves a variety of seafood, game and poultry dishes.

SUTTON ON THE FOREST The Rose and Crown Inn £££

Main St, Sutton-on-the-Forest, York, YO61 1DP ***Tel*** *01347 811333*

Informal dining in this village inn restaurant, which specializes in fish dishes presented in a classic brasserie style. Surrounded by pleasant gardens and set in the rural heart of Yorkshire, it is well placed between the attractive centres of Helmsley and York, and surrounded by a wealth of stately homes and abbeys.

WATH-IN-NIDDERDALE The Sportsman's Arms £££

Wath-in-Nidderdale, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 5PP ***Tel*** *01423 711306*

Set within an old farmhouse and converted barn, this characterful inn emanates the charm of a former age. The food, served in a comfortable room, is cooked with a French influence, and includes fresh, seasonal fish and seafood brought from Whitby. Steaks, lamb, duck and guinea fowl also appear on the menu.

WHITBY Magpie Café ££

14 Pier Rd, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 3PU ***Tel*** *01947 602058*

Looking out across the historic port towards St Mary's Church and the abbey, this distinctive black-and-white, former merchant's house became a café in the 1930s. Specialities revolve around seafood and fish and chips, of which there are some eight different varieties. However, there is also a wide selection of other dishes too.

YORK Goji £

36 Goodramgate, York, YO1 7LF ***Tel*** *01904 622614*

This refreshing café serves wholesome and imaginatively prepared vegetarian food using fresh seasonal produce. Try the tasty Goji hotdog (tofu frankfurter), the mushroom burger or – for something mildly spicy – the vegetable korma. Vegan and gluten-free options are also available, as well as organic wines. Excellent coffee and restorative teas too.

YORK Melton's Too ££

25 Walmgate, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 9TX ***Tel*** *01904 629222*

Located in a former saddler's, this open-plan bistro retains many original features, but has a distinctively modern feel. While losing nothing of the original Melton's dedication to home-made food, this place has a more informal appeal; an ideal venue whether you want just a light bite or a full dinner. The bar has a good range of speciality beers.

YORK The Blue Bicycle Restaurant £££

34 Fossgate, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 9TA ***Tel*** *01904 673990*

Seafood and modern European dishes are the specialities at this atmospheric restaurant. Situated beside River Foss, in a building that housed a 19th-century brothel, it still retains some of the original booths in the cellar. A guitarist provides an added attraction on Saturday evenings.

NORTHUMBRIA

AYCLIFFE The County ££

13 The Green, Aycliffe, Darlington, County Durham, DL5 6LX ***Tel*** *01325 312273*

Overlooking Aycliffe village green, the County is a historic building with a contemporary interior. The relaxed setting extends to the menu, you can combine dishes to get exactly what you want. The food is simply cooked and focuses on traditional and modern British cuisine. The wines are from the New World and there's a good range of real ales.

CARTERWAY HEADS The Manor House Inn ££

Carterway Heads, Shotley Bridge, Northumberland, DH8 9LX ***Tel*** *01207 255268*

Located in isolation, this 18th-century inn has stunning views across the open moors. Dine in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere, either in the restaurant or more informally at the bar, which is popular with walkers and cyclists. The home-made food is good and a small shop sells some of the chutneys, jams and ready meals on the menu.

DURHAM Bistro 21 ££

Aykley Heads House, Aykley Heads, Durham, County Durham, DH1 5TS ***Tel*** *0191 384 4354*

Set within an early 18th-century building, originally a farmhouse, this popular bistro retains a distinct bucolic feel and, in summer, tables appear in the courtyard for al fresco dining. The cuisine is modern British with overtones of the Mediterranean and there's an ever-changing list of special dishes exploiting seasonal fresh produce.

GATESHEAD Eslington Villa Hotel ££

8 Station Rd, Low Fell, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE9 6DR ***Tel*** *0191 487 6017*

This stunning 19th-century house combines the charm of an earlier age with modern creativity and offers dining in the comfortable restaurant or the less formal setting of the conservatory. The award-winning kitchen team are passionate about food and conceive eclectic menus featuring the best in contemporary and original cuisine.

GATESHEAD Six Restaurant ££

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art; Gateshead Quays, South Shore Road, Gateshead, NE8 3BA ***Tel*** *0191 4404948*

Enjoy the splendid views of the River Tyne and the famous Tyne Bridges from the rooftop of this beautifully converted flour mill. Excellent modern British food is served in a crisp, contemporary dining room by attentive and informative waiting staff. Kick-start the evening with a drink at the bar.

GREAT WHITTINGTON Queens Head Inn ££

Great Whittington, Corbridge, Tynedale, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE19 2HP ***Tel*** *01434 672267*

A welcoming early 17th-century village coaching inn not far from Hadrian's Wall. The very comfortable restaurant serves a bistro-style menu of freshly prepared tempting dishes featuring local meat, game and fish from the coast. There's a well-devised wine list and extensive range of malt whiskies as well as several fine ales at the bar.

HAYDON BRIDGE General Havelock Inn £££

9 Ratcliffe Rd, Haydon Bridge, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 6ER ***Tel*** *01434 684376*

Named after a famous general who helped put down the Indian Mutiny, this former roadside inn enjoys a delightful setting beside the river. Ingredients are sourced locally as much as possible, the dishes reflecting whatever is in season. One of the chef's signature dishes is Cullen Skink, a rich broth based around smoked haddock.

HEXHAM Valley Connection 301 ££

Market Place, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3NX ***Tel*** *01434 601234*

This Bangladeshi restaurant enjoys a pretty location off the main street beside Hexham Abbey. Unique dishes include Mr Daraz's very own *bhuna gosht* (stir-fired lamb) and *bongo po curry*, created around king prawns from the Bay of Bengal. The winner is *shat kora*, flavoured with a variety of lemon found in the valley of Sylhet in Bangladesh.

HUTTON MAGNA The Oak Tree Inn £££

Hutton Magna, Durham, County Durham, DL11 7HH ***Tel*** *01833 627371*

Unassuming Oak Tree Inn is local favourite and a real gem. The chef at this restaurant hails from the Savoy, bringing imaginative fine cuisine to the informality of an 18th-century village pub. A warm salad of crispy pork belly with black pudding precedes royal sea bream with wild mushroom and asparagus noodles. Booking is essential.

MATFEN Matfen Hall Country House Hotel £££

Matfen, Northumberland, NE20 0RH ***Tel*** *01661 886500*

This beautifully restored 19th-century country mansion, set within its own extensive grounds, offers a dining experience to remember. Both the library and smaller print room provide a truly atmospheric candlelit setting for an intimate meal. The food is superb and the service is discreet, but attentive.

NEWCASTLE At Bangkok Café £

39–41 Low Friar Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 5UE ***Tel*** *0191 260 2323*

The aim of this popular Thai eatery is to serve authentic dishes in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Only the freshest herbs are used to create traditional, spicy green curries and warming, pungent soups. Daily set menus offer great value, as do the occasional buffet lunches.

NEWCASTLE Paradiso ££

1 Market Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE1 6QQ ***Tel*** *0191 221 1240*

This stylish eatery is one of Newcastle's most popular restaurants. It combines old and new, its contemporary design blending well with the exposed brickwork of the traditional building. Diners can enjoy modern Italian cuisine with unusual influences from Africa, Asia and beyond. Sandwiches and snacks are served throughout the day. Closed Sun.

NEWCASTLE The Cherry Tree ££

9 Osborne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne ***Tel*** *0191 239 9924*

The Cherry Tree offers some of the best modern British food in the northeast. The imaginative menu includes grilled halibut, Bury black pudding and Ingram Valley lamb. Set lunches and early evening menus offer great value, and live jazz in the evening is a welcome addition.

NEWCASTLE Fisherman's Lodge £££

Jesmond Dene, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE7 7BQ ***Tel*** *0191 281 3281*

Close to the city centre, but lying in the secluded wooded valley of Jesmond Dene, Fisherman's Lodge has earned an outstanding reputation for its fine dining. Seafood dishes are the speciality, but local meat and game also feature prominently on the menu. Exotic deserts and a carefully selected cheese board round off the meal. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

PONTELAND Café Lowrey £££

33–35 The Broadway, Darras Hall Estate, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9PW ***Tel*** *01661 820357*

Café Lowrey offers bistro-style dining with a distinct French influence to the food. Ingredients are locally sourced, the service is friendly and the atmosphere relaxed, though there's generally a lively buzz to the place at the weekend. However, go mid-week when there's usually a quiet corner to be had.

REDWORTH Barcelo Redworth Hall Hotel £££

Redworth, Bishop Auckland, Darlington, County Durham, DL5 6NL ***Tel*** *01388 770600*

Built in 1693 as a private house, Redworth Hall retains many of its original features and stands in 150 acres of beautifully kept grounds. The elegant 1744 dining room, named after the year in which it was added, offers fine dining in luxurious surroundings.

ROMALDKIRK The Rose and Crown Inn £££

Romaldkirk, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 9EB ***Tel*** *01833 650213*

This traditional stone-built coaching inn dates from the 18th century and stands on the green beside the church in the heart of a County Durham village. Dine in style in the oak-panelled restaurant at tables bedecked in crisp white linen or choose the more rustic setting of the brasserie, perhaps selecting only one or two courses as you please.

TYNEMOUTH Brasserie 1883 ££

3–5 Percy Park Rd, Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, NE30 4LZ ***Tel*** *0191 257 8500*

A vibrant modern decor and constantly changing artwork set the scene for this bustling place. The kitchen team use the best fresh produce, meticulously creating an interesting variety of modern dishes, often European, but with underlying themes from across the globe. A variety of creative fish and vegetarian options give balance to the menu.

YARM Chadwick's £££

104B High St, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham, TS15 9AU ***Tel*** *01642 788558*

The attractive town of Yarm, surrounded by the snaking River Tees, is home to this bustling restaurant on the high street. The distinctly continental lunch offers lighter meals and snacks including pizzas and pasta. The evening menu is more formal, with a good range of specials and some interesting creations. Great service by the enthusiastic staff.

NORTH WALES

ABERDOVEY Penhelig Arms £££

Aberdyfi, Gwynedd, LL35 0LT ***Tel*** *01654 767215*

This small, friendly hotel has a reputable restaurant that enjoys panoramic views of the Dovey estuary. On offer is a good range of locally sourced fish and meat. Indulge in a glass of champagne and fresh dressed crab, or try the reasonably priced fixed menu.

ABERSOCH Porth Tocyn Country Hotel £££

Abersoch, Gwynedd, LL53 7BU ***Tel*** *01758 713303*

Panoramic hotel restaurant Porth Tocyn has appeared in good food guides for over 50 years. There's a choice between a three- and two-course evening menu. Ask for a table at the "picture window" for the best views over the peninsula. Tables in the garden for informal lunchtime dining.

BEAUMARIS Ye Olde Bull's Head Inn ££££

Castle St, Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey, LL58 8AP ***Tel*** *01248 810329*

Locally known as "the Bull", this restaurant-with-rooms is based in the centre of town. An ancient coaching inn, built in 1472, the building provides an elegant setting for the main restaurant in its oldest part. There's also a less formal brasserie and a popular bar.

CAPEL COCH Tre-Ysgawen Hall £££

Capel Coch, Llangefni, Isle of Anglesey, LL77 7UR ***Tel*** *01248 750750*

Hotel and spa with seasonal menu and excellent accompanying wine list, Tre-Ysgawen Hall has a delicious evening menu. The chef provides vegetarian and low-calorie fare on request. Residents have use of a gym and a golf course, available to help burn off the calories. There's also an atmospheric bar.

DOLGARROG The Lord Newborough ££

Dolgarrog, Conwy, LL32 8JX ***Tel*** *01492 660549*

The Lord Newborough prides itself on its simple, but tasty cuisine and friendly dining atmosphere. Using the best of Snowdonia's ingredients, the menu features Welsh lamb shank, Conwy Valley steak pie, Welsh potato bake (with leeks) and a delicious cheese board.

DOLGELLAU Bwyty Dylanwad Da 🧒 🍷 ££

2 Ffos-y-felin, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 1BS ***Tel*** *01341 422870*

Small friendly café-restaurant with a long and impressive reputation, Bwyty Dylanwad Da also offers one of the best cappuccinos in town. Menu features traditional dishes such as faggot with spiced apple sauce, Welsh beef steak and Welsh honey and almond ice cream. Closed Jan–Mar.

EWLOE The Borders Restaurant 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

St David's Park Hotel, Ewloe, nr Chester, Flintshire, CH5 3YB ***Tel*** *01244 520800*

This award-winning restaurant is in a four-star hotel on the Welsh border. It offers a delicious seasonal menu, an informal carvery perfect for family dining, and a tasty range of bar snacks. The classy surroundings create an ideal ambience to enjoy the superb food accompanied by an exceptional choice of wines.

HARLECH Castle Cottage 🧒 🍷 £££

Y Llech, Harlech, Gwynedd, LL46 2YL ***Tel*** *01766 780479*

The award-winning restaurant (with rooms) at the Castle Cottage is a popular destination for locals and visitors alike. The seasonal menu features locally caught lobster, sea bass and black bream, and there is also venison from the Brecon Beacons National Park. Won the 2008/9 True Taste award for Best Restaurant in Wales.

LLANBEDROG Glyn-Y-Weddw Arms 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

Lon Pin, Llanbedrog, Pwllheli, LL53 7TH ***Tel*** *01758 740212*

This low-key village pub and restaurant serves good, hearty food using fresh local produce. Daily specials and fixed-price menus include vegetarian options. Draught ales are also available and there is a lovely beer garden. A carvery is held on Sundays and there is an international buffet every Saturday.

LLANBERIS The Gwynedd Hotel & Restaurant 🧒 ♿ £££

Llanberis, Snowdonia, Gwynedd, LL55 4SU ***Tel*** *01286 870203*

Fabulously situated at the foot of Mount Snowdon, this restaurant prides itself on the varied menu of local and seasonal cuisine. The owners, Mark and Dita Bartlett, pay meticulous attention to every detail. Dinner and lunch come complete with sightseeing information.

LLANDUDNO The Seahorse 🧒 ££

7 Church Walks, LL30 2HD ***Tel*** *01492 875315*

The dining room of this Grade II listed Victorian building boasts a lovely view of Corfu – courtesy of local mural artists. There's more artistry in the kitchen where the finest local ingredients are used to create a fresh seafood menu featuring baked hake with crab in a thermidor sauce. Thai nights are held here twice a month.

LLANDRILLO Tyddyn Llan 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Llandrillo, nr Corwen, Denbighshire, LL21 0ST ***Tel*** *01490 440264*

The rural location of this restaurant-with-rooms makes it the perfect stopping-off point after a hearty walk in the countryside. Set in a small elegant Georgian house, it is famed for the award-wining cuisine by owner Brian Webb. The imaginative menu, featuring local lamb and beef, justifies its reputation as one of Wales's finest restaurants.

LLANGOLLEN The Corn Mill 🧒 🍷 ££

Dee Lane, Llangollen, Denbighshire, LL20 8NN ***Tel*** *01978 869555*

Informal restaurant in a heritage building, The Corn Mill is a preferred family destination. Children can enjoy fish fingers with baked beans, while their parents dine on venison sausage with parsnip, carrot and potato mash or panfried steak on black pudding, paté and Brie.

NORTHOP Stables Bar Restaurant 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Soughton Hall, Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6AB ***Tel*** *01352 840577*

Part of the luxurious Soughton Hall Hotel, Stables Bar Restaurant offers a truly atmospheric setting with open fires, cobbled floors and timber-roofs. The menu features modern British cuisine. Evening dinner is served in the stables and the accompanying wine is chosen from the extensive restaurant cellars.

PENMAENPOOL Penmaenuchaf Hall 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Penmaenpool, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 1YB ***Tel*** *01341 422129*

The reputation of Penmaenuchaf Hall rests on its award-winning cuisine. Modern British cooking, thoughtfully kept simple and light, is served in the elegant dining room with fine linen, silver cutlery and crystal wine glasses. Welsh beef and lamb make a good showing. A Celtic cheese board is also available.

PORTMEIRION Hotel Portmeirion 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Off A487, Portmeirion, Gwynedd, LL48 6ET ***Tel*** *01766 770228*

Designed by Clough Williams-Ellis in 1931, the formal hotel (*see p591*) dining room has fabulous views overlooking the estuary. The modern Welsh menu uses the best of local Welsh produce. Castell Deudraeth gastropub, another restaurant on the premises, specializes in fresh seafood, while the Town Hall Restaurant serves meals and snacks.

PWLLHELI Plas Bodegroes 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Nefyn Rd, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 5TH ***Tel*** *01758 612363*

One of Wales's most well-known restaurants, award-winning Plas Bodegroes may be pricey, but it's more than worth the expense. Locally reared meat, fish and freshly caught game make for a great menu, but the desserts are the main draw. Try the heart-shaped cinnamon biscuit of rhubarb and apple with elderflower custard.

RHOS-ON-SEA Forte's Restaurant £

Penrhyn Avenue, Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy, LL28 4NH ***Tel*** *01492 544662*

With contemporary decor, Forte's is a perfect lunch venue for families exploring Rhos-on-Sea. It doubles as an ice cream parlour with a delicious range of sundaes, all made with the house ice cream. The restaurant closes at 5:30pm, except during July and August when it remains open in the evening. Breathtaking views of the harbour.

RHYDLYDAN Y Giler Arms ££

Rhydlydan, nr Betws-y-Coed, Conwy, LL24 0LL ***Tel*** *01690 770612*

Friendly country pub and hotel with its own fishing lake, the Giler Arms serves a flavourful seasonal menu in its atmospheric bar-restaurant. There's a good range of local ales, including Batham's traditional draught beers. Enjoys stunning views of the lake.

RUTHIN Manorhaus ££

10 Well St, LL15 1AH ***Tel*** *01824 704830*

This super-stylish restaurant with rooms is housed in a listed Georgian stone building in the heart of historic Ruthin. The seasonal menu, featuring such Welsh delights as salt marsh lamb and Menai mussels, is served in the design-conscious dining room, where local art adorns the walls. Relax with an after-dinner Welsh whisky in the cosy bar.

TALSARNAU Maes-y-Neuadd £££

Talsarnau, Gwynedd, LL47 6YA ***Tel*** *01766 780200*

Housed in a scenic country house hotel, the restaurant at Maes-y-Neuadd serves an innovative four-course menu. Fresh meats and cheese come from local farms, fish from Cardigan Bay, and fresh vegetables and strawberries from the hotel garden. The courses in the set menus are carefully crafted to maintain harmony.

TAL-Y-BONT Ysgethin Inn £

Tal-y-bont, nr Barmouth, Gwynedd, LL43 2AN ***Tel*** *01341 247578*

Informal family pub in a converted mill house on the banks of the River Ysgethin, serving a mix of simple bar snacks, classic roasts and house specials, such as Ysgethin steak pie. There's an extensive children's menu. Riverside patio and children's adventure playground. The Black Rock grill restaurant cooks on volcanic stone.

SOUTH AND MID-WALES

ABERAERON The Hive on the Quay £££

Cadwgan Place, SA46 0BU ***Tel*** *01545 570445*

The award-winning home-made honey ice cream is just one of the reasons to come to this café-restaurant in a converted wharf. On offer is a wide variety of food, from savoury pancakes to seafood platters and Ploughman's lunches to Cardigan Bay crab sandwiches. Almost everything is sourced locally and made on the premises.

ABERGAVENNY The Walnut Tree Inn £££

Llandewi Skirrid, NP7 8AW ***Tel*** *01873 852797*

This legendary restaurant is a firm fixture on the foodie trail thanks to an eclectic menu and a carefully chosen wine list. The menu changes daily and often includes cassoulet of goose, lamb and sausage; Taleggio cheese and lentil tart; chestnut ice cream and prune and armagnac tart. The rural setting is great for a relaxed special occasion.

BRECON Felin Fach Griffin £££

Felin Fach, Brecon, Powys, LD3 OUB ***Tel*** *01874 620111*

Award-winning pub with rooms midway between Brecon and Hay-on-Wye, the Felin Fach Griffin has been acclaimed as exceptional by critics. A delicious lunch and supper menu of traditional Welsh cuisine is on offer. Starters include squab pigeon, while mains range from fresh salted cod to local Welsh rib-eye. Great local cheese board.

BRIDGEND Eliot Restaurant £££

Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel, Coychurch, Bridgend, CF35 6AF ***Tel*** *01656 860621*

In a country-house hotel, Coed-y-Mwstwr ("whispering trees"), Eliot Restaurant provides fabulous views over the picturesque Vale of Glamorgan. Daily table d'hôte menu includes duck breast with wilted spinach and cherry port sauce, or rabbit leg stuffed with garlic and spinach pancetta. There's also a family Sunday lunch menu.

BUILTH WELLS The Drawing Room £££

Cwmbach, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3RT ***Tel*** *01982 552493*

Five-star restaurant-with-rooms in the heart of Wales, the Drawing Room occupies an elegant Georgian country residence. Its location in the plush Wye Valley provides plenty of delicious seasonal ingredients, including prime Welsh black beef and lamb from local farms.

CARDIFF Mimosa Kitchen and Bar ££

Mermaid Quay, Cardiff Bay, CF10 5BZ ***Tel*** *02920 491900*

Welsh, stylish and tasty: three adjectives that describe the food in this fashionable gastropub. Seasonal, organic regional produce is the order of the day, with food served from breakfast through to dinner. Welsh slate, leather seats and picture windows attract an arty media crowd.

Key to Price Guide *see p608* **Key to Symbols** *see back cover flap*

CARDIFF Le Gallois 🧒 ♿ £££

6–10 Romilly Crescent, CF11 9NR ***Tel*** *02920 341264*

This smart eatery in the Canton district is probably Cardiff's best restaurant. Whilst the menu's foundations are Welsh-French, some dishes have a Californian influence – raw, sprouted and dehydrated organic vegetables pop up here and there. Game and fish feature prominently, but whatever you order, it's guaranteed to be beautifully presented.

CARDIFF Sequoias Hotel 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Thornhill, Cardiff, CF14 9UA ***Tel*** *02920 520280*

The panoramic restaurant at this country-house hotel on the outskirts of Cardiff, is known to blend international flavours with the best local produce from the Vale of Glamorgan. Traditional Sunday lunch menu offers discounts for children. Ask for a table on the patio if you don't want to feel that you are dining at a hotel.

CRICKHOWELL Nantyffin Cider Mill 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

Brecon Road, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1SG ***Tel*** *01873 810775*

Pretty country restaurant in a converted mill at the base of the Black Mountains, the Nantyffin remains popular with locals and tourists alike. Dining is split between the bar and the high-beamed, stone-walled restaurant. Dishes are a mix of the local (Glanusk pheasant) and the international (feta, artichoke and olive tart).

FISHGUARD Diners' Circle 🧒 ♿ £££

Tregynon, Gwaun Valley, nr Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, SA659TU ***Tel*** *01239 820531*

A 14th-century farmhouse restaurant, Diner's Circle has been steadily building itself a reputation since it first opened 25 years ago. All food is made on the premises by the owner, with an emphasis on beef and lamb reared on the nearby land. Only members can book to eat here, but one-night membership is available and well worth it.

HAY-ON-WYE Three Cocks Hotel & Restaurant 🧒 £££

Three Cocks, nr Hay-on-Wye, Brecon, Powys, LD3 0SL ***Tel*** *01497 847215*

Listed hotel-restaurant on the main Hereford to Brecon road, the Three Cocks serves tasty home-made dishes using the best of local cuisine. The dining room is quiet, but inviting, with stone fireplaces, comfortable chairs and great views over the hotel garden. Booking recommended.

LLANWRTYD WELLS The Lasswade Country House Hotel & Restaurant 🧒 ♿ £££

Station Rd, Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, LD5 4RW ***Tel*** *01591 610515*

The Lasswade, an Edwardian country-house hotel, is renowned for its fresh and locally sourced, mostly organic, produce. This AA Rosette restaurant won the "True Taste of Wales" and "Sustain Food Challenge" awards and has been in the Good Food Guide since 2004. The Welsh black beef is a speciality. Booking is recommended.

MONMOUTH The Stone Mill 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££

Rockfield, Monmouth, Monmouthshire, NP25 5SW ***Tel*** *01600 716273*

On the outskirts of the Forest of Dean, picturesque Stone Mill occupies a converted 16th-century barn with oak beams and vaulted ceiling offset by modern furnishings. The menu features the best of Welsh cuisine, including locally sourced Longhorn beef, pork from Monmouth, chicken from Chepstow and fish from Brixham.

MUMBLES Verdi's 🧒 ♿ ⛱ £££

Knab Rock, SA3 4EN ***Tel*** *01792 369135*

The perfect place to stop after a bracing walk along Mumbles seafront. This glass-fronted Italian café serves up the best pizza this side of Naples, as well as focaccia sandwiches and daily pasta specials. Tasty desserts include tiramisu and delicious Turkish delight ice cream, or you could just enjoy a coffee and admire the view of Swansea Bay.

PEMBROKE George Wheeler Restaurant 🧒 🍷 £££

Old Kings Arms Hotel, Main St, Pembroke, Pembrokeshire, SA71 4JS ***Tel*** *01646 683611*

Award-winning restaurant in Pembrokeshire's oldest hotel, George Wheeler showcases the best of Wales's local produce, especially fish, sourced daily from Milford Haven. Traditional dishes, such as hot Welsh cockles with laver bread and bacon, sit neatly alongside more modern fare, such as the ever-popular king prawns with garlic butter.

SKENFRITH The Bell at Skenfrith 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Skenfrith, Monmouthshire, NP7 8UH ***Tel*** *01600 750235*

Renovated 17th-century coaching inn with guestrooms, the Bell is well worth the short drive out of Monmouth. The restaurant menu here ties in with the farmer's market at nearby Abergavenny. Welsh beef, lamb and wild mushrooms popularly feature on the menu. Caters for children over nine.

SOLVA The Old Pharmacy 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

5 Main St, Solva, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6UU ***Tel*** *01437 720005*

Formerly a chemist shop, this quaint little restaurant in the harbour village of Lower Solva specializes in local fish and seafood. The menu's star attraction is the bouillabaisse with freshly baked olive oil bread. The Solva lobster and crab, and Welsh organic beef and lamb are good too. There's a charming riverside patio. Children's menu available.

ST DAVIDS Morgan's Restaurant 🧒 ££

20 Nun St, St Davids, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6NT ***Tel*** *01437 720508*

This long-established brasserie offers a well-priced menu with some innovative combinations, including monkfish medallions with mushrooms and laver bread sauce, and rack of lamb with Welsh honey and stem ginger. Make sure you save some room for the delicious home-made desserts.

ST DAVIDS Warpool Court Hotel 🧒 🍷 £££

St Davids, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6BN ***Tel*** *01437 720300*

Rosette-awarded hotel-restaurant with enviable views over St Davids peninsula, the Warpool Court boasts a delicious daily changing menu of modern British fare. Roast venison saddle comes with venison faggot and cassis *jus,* while the roast corn-fed chicken breast is laid on a bed of Parmesan, chorizo and spinach risotto.

SWANSEA Patrick's with Rooms 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

638 Mumbles Rd, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4EA ***Tel*** *01792 360199*

Fantastic restaurant-with-rooms overlooking the Mumbles, Patrick's caters for everyone: it also has a menu in Braille. The food is delicious with an accompanying wine list. Many of the ingredients used are sourced from the nearby countryside and sea, such as the tasty Gower mussels with leek and laver bread and St Iystydd cheese gratin.

SWANSEA The Chelsea Café 🧒 £££

Ty Castell House, 17 St Mary St, SA1 3LH ***Tel*** *01792 464068*

The yellow dining room might be small, but this award-winning fish restaurant is big on flavour. The locally caught sea bass is a popular choice; meat dishes include a good steak and kidney pie with a suet crust. The Belgian chocolate steamed pudding is surprisingly light, leaving room for an Irish coffee or a couple of drinks on nearby Wind St.

TALYBONT-ON-USK Usk Inn 🧒 ♿ ££

Talybont-on-Usk, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7JE ***Tel*** *01874 676251*

Fabulous country pub with rooms in the heart of the Brecon Beacons National Park, Usk Inn sources its ingredients daily from all over Wales: fresh milk and cheese from Brecon, vegetables from Merthyr, meat from Bwlch. The menu caters for everything from bar snacks to three-course table d'hôte.

USK Three Salmons Hotel 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Bridge St, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP15 1RY ***Tel*** *01291 672133*

Restaurant in a beautifully timbered 17th-century coaching inn, Three Salmons Hotel, in the market town of Usk, serves a carefully crafted menu of fresh, local fare with an Italian twist. The carpaccio of beef and baked salmon with pistachio and Parmesan crust, gives a flavour of what is on offer; however, the menu changes regularly.

WHITEBROOK Crown at Whitebrook ♿ ££££

Whitebrook, nr Monmouth, Monmouthshire, NP25 4TX ***Tel*** *01600 860254*

Elegant restaurant in a charming hotel just outside of Monmouth, Crown at Whitebrook dates back to 1670. Head chef James Sommerin uses local ingredients but classic French training to create a mouthwatering menu, which mixes game with local beef, lamb and fish.

WOLFSCASTLE Wolfscastle Country Hotel ♿ 🍷 £££

Wolfscastle, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 5LZ ***Tel*** *01437 741225*

One of Wales's grandest country-house hotel-restaurants, the Wolfscastle occupies a panoramic old riverside vicarage near to Haverfordwest and Fishguard. The menu is, unsurprisingly, big on fish with salmon, monkfish and halibut making a good showing next to Welsh beef, lamb and duck. Gourmet breaks available.

THE LOWLANDS

ANSTRUTHER The Cellar 🍷 £££££

24 E Green, Anstruther, Fife, KY10 3AA ***Tel*** *01333 310378*

Housed in one of Fife's oldest buildings, this cosy restaurant was voted UK Seafood Restaurant of the Year 2008. Chef Peter Jukes serves excellent seafood cuisine, with fish, crabs, lobsters and scallops playing a prominent role. Uses fresh local produce. Ideal for those looking for an intimate, romantic meal.

AYR Brown's Restaurant at Enterkine House ♿ ££

By Ayr, Ayrshire, KA6 5AL ***Tel*** *01292 520580*

This is one of the most elegant country houses in the area. The dining room is beautifully furnished and offers outstanding service. The menu uses only the best locally sourced produce, such as Buccleuch beef, and the skillfully prepared dishes are artfully presented.

CUPAR Ostlers Close 🍷 £££

25 Bonnygate, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4BU ***Tel*** *01334 655574*

A cosy, comfortable restaurant serving modern Scottish cuisine. The menu features a variety of seafood, as well as poultry and seasonal game. Uses fresh local produce. The wild mushrooms are highly recommended. Open for dinner from Tuesday to Saturday; lunch is offered only on Saturday.

DIRLETON The Open Arms 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Main St, Dirleton, East Lothian, EH39 5EG ***Tel*** *01620 850241*

Situated on the edge of the village green, overlooking the 13th-century Dirleton Castle, this popular, family-owned country hotel has a well deserved reputation for good food. Guests can choose between the elegant, formal restaurant or the bright, informal brasserie. The convivial surroundings add to the charm.

EDINBURGH The Dogs

🚸 £

110 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1DR ***Tel*** *0131 220 1208*

This is a curious but welcome member of the Edinburgh restaurant scene. The superb cooking champions Scottish ingredients with classics such as sweetbreads on toast, game pie and lemon thyme posset served with oat biscuits. A charming eatery with quirky crockery and excellent-value fare.

EDINBURGH Le Café St Honore

♿ 🍷 £££

34 N W Thistle St Lane, Edinburgh, EH2 1EA ***Tel*** *0131 226 2211*

Located close to the main shopping streets, but in a quiet lane, this traditional French restaurant with a typical Parisian-style interior, is a favourite of many. All produce is of the finest quality, the dishes are imaginative and skilfully cooked and the staff are friendly and helpful.

EDINBURGH Atrium and Blue Bar Café

♿ 🍷 ££££

10 Cambridge St, Edinburgh, EH1 2ED ***Tel*** *0131 228 8882*

Two restaurants run by consummate professionals. The more formal Atrium is open for lunch and dinner, and offers a fine, contemporary dining experience, while the informal Blue Bar Café is open all day for snacks, coffee, drinks, lunch and dinner. The cuisine is modern British with a Mediterranean twist. Superb quality in both places.

EDINBURGH The Balmoral

🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££££

The Balmoral Hotel, 1 Princes St, Edinburgh, EH2 2EQ ***Tel*** *0131 557 6727*

This classy and upmarket restaurant is located in The Balmoral Hotel, and has its own entrance on Princes Street. Acclaimed chef Jeff Bland is renowned for his skill, imagination and passion for fine Scottish cuisine. The service at this Michelin-starred and multiple award-winning dining venue is also exceptional.

EDINBURGH The Kitchin in Leith

♿ ££££

78 Commercial Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6LX ***Tel*** *0131 555 1755*

A contemporary eatery in Edinburgh's trendy Leith Waterfront area. Chef Tom Kitchin has deservedly earned a reputation for his innovative menus and presentation. Fish and seafood feature alongside traditional British meats such as venison and beef. More unusual choices include ox tongue and bone marrow. All produce is locally sourced.

EDINBURGH Restaurant Martin Wishart

♿ 🍷 £££££

54 The Shore, Edinburgh, EH6 6RA ***Tel*** *0131 553 3557*

Possibly the finest dining experience in all of Scotland. Chef Martin Wishart's creative and innovative cuisine is in great demand by lovers of fine food, and justifiably so. Serves modern French fare, using the best produce available. The service is excellent, the ambience welcoming and the experience truly memorable.

ELIE Sangster's

♿ 🍷 ££

51 High St, Elie, Fife, KY9 1BZ ***Tel*** *01333 331001*

Located in a popular, coastal East Neuk village, this small, fine restaurant is run by one of Scotland's most recognized and skilled chefs, Bruce Sangster. Specialities include twice baked cheese soufflé, slow cooked noisette of lamb and delicious desserts. Closed on Monday, as well as for dinner on Sunday and for lunch on Tuesday and Saturday.

GLASGOW Wee Curry Shop

🚸 £

41 Byres Road, G11 5RG ***Tel*** *0141 339 1339*

The Wee Curry Shop has three branches in Glasgow offering excellent Indian cuisine, often with a Scottish twist. Haggis pakora and spiced haddock are among the more unusual dishes on the menu. All the food is freshly prepared on the premises and is excellent value. A popular choice in the West End of Glasgow.

GLASGOW Firebird

🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££

1321 Argyle St, nr Museum of Transport, Glasgow, G3 8TL ***Tel*** *0141 334 0594*

A popular bar-restaurant hang-out for drinks and an informal evening meal. All produce is of the freshest and highest quality, and the pizzas are among the best in Glasgow. It can get quite noisy at the weekends; if you like it quieter, go during the week instead.

GLASGOW City Merchant

🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

97–99 Candleriggs, Glasgow, G1 1NP ***Tel*** *0141 553 1577*

A warm and welcoming, family-run restaurant located in Glasgow's Merchant City. This bustling venue serves excellent seafood cuisine with a Scottish influence and uses the best local produce. The ambience is informal and rustic. Can accommodate up to 120 guests. Offers good value for money.

GLASGOW Gamba

🍷 £££

225A W George St, Glasgow, G2 2ND ***Tel*** *0141 572 0899*

Popular, seafood restaurant, recognized for its high quality, varied cuisine. The food is meticulously prepared, using fresh seasonal produce such as fish, lobsters and oysters, and beautifully presented. The interior of this city centre eatery is modern, stylish and comfortable, while the ambience is cosy.

GLASGOW Stravaigin

🚸 🍷 £££

28 Gibson St, Hillhead, Glasgow, G12 8NX ***Tel*** *0141 334 2665*

Well placed in the popular Gibson Street, in the Glasgow University neighbourhood. Features a popular café-bar and a highly successful restaurant. Serves award-winning pub fare: the best of Scottish produce flavoured with the world's sauces, herbs and spices.

GLASGOW Two Fat Ladies at the Buttery 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

652 Argyle St, Glasgow, G3 8UF ***Tel*** *0141 221 8188*

Although located in a less than salubrious part of the city centre, this is one place that is well worth seeking out. This attractive pub has been converted into an elegant dining room, but retains elements of its past. Largely a fish restaurant, it also serves hearty Scottish fare, made from fresh local produce. Also offers a wide selection of desserts and cheeses.

GLASGOW Ubiquitous Chip 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

12 Ashton Lane, Glasgow, G12 8SJ ***Tel*** *0141 334 5007*

A Glasgow West-End institution, this prestigious restaurant serves traditional Scottish cuisine, made with fresh local ingredients, and has been a home of culinary excellence for over 30 years. Great atmosphere and a friendly staff make this a notable place.

GULLANE La Potinière 🍷 ££

Main St, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2AA ***Tel*** *01620 843214*

Superior restaurant situated in a pretty East Lothian village. The menu changes from season to season, and offers well-prepared food, using fresh local produce. Boasts a caring and hospitable staff, as well as a private parking facility. The restaurant is closed on Monday and Tuesday.

INVERKEILOR Gordon's Restaurant 🍷 ££££

Main Street, Inverkeilor, DD11 5RN ***Tel*** *01241 830364*

One of Scotland's finest dining establishments, this family-run restaurant is set in the tiny Angus village of Inverkeilor. The menu features Scottish seasonal ingredients such as Arbroath Smokie, North Sea halibut and Isle of Mull Tobermory cheddar; all dishes are beautifully presented. Rooms are available for overnight stays.

KIPPFORD The Anchor Hotel 🚸 ♿ £

Main St, Kippford, Dalbeattie, Kirkudbrightshire, DG5 4LN ***Tel*** *01556 620205*

This seaside hotel and pub is situated on the waterfront in the pretty village of Kippford, with great views of the coastal activity. The friendly bar serves appetizing pub food, using seasonal, locally sourced produce. A popular spot to enjoy real ale and a filling meal. The hotel is comfortable and of good value. Open summer only.

LARGS Nardinis 🚸 ♿ ££

The Esplanade, Largs, KA30 8NF, Ayrshire, ***Tel*** *01475 475000*

A splendid Art Deco interior sets the scene of this seafront lounge café. This well-known Scottish institution is definitely worth a visit if in the area. Breakfasts, cakes and Italian and British dishes are served all day. A perfect place to relax, sit back and read the paper. Extremely popular with both locals and tourists.

LINLITHGOW Champany Inn 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £££

Champany, nr Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 7LU ***Tel*** *01506 834532*

Located on the outskirts of Linlithgow, not far from Edinburgh, this charming restaurant has a well-earned reputation for offering some of the best steaks in Scotland. Diners can choose from strip loin, rib eye, fillet and porterhouse; all cooked to perfection. Must-try specialities include delicious Loch Gruinart oysters and succulent hot smoked salmon.

MOFFAT Well View Hotel £££

Ballplay Rd, Moffat, Dumfriesshire, DG10 9JU ***Tel*** *01683 220184*

An intimate hotel situated in a quiet residential street, a few minutes walk from the main street. Modern French cooking with some Scottish elements, using the best local produce available, is served in the dining room of this family-run establishment. Presents a peaceful atmosphere and comfortable surroundings.

PEEBLES The Adam Room, Tontine Hotel 🚸 ♿ 🍷 £

High Street, Peebles, EH45 8AJ ***Tel*** *01721 720892*

This hotel is one of the best places to enjoy good Scottish fare. The menu includes local lamb, beef and fish dishes, and the service is friendly and accomplished. Dine in the smart Georgian Adam Room or opt for the less formal bistro. Both offer excellent value for money and beautifully presented dishes.

PORTPATRICK Knockinaam Lodge 🚸 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Off A77, nr Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway, DG9 9AD ***Tel*** *01776 810471*

This attractive country house has an idyllic location overlooking the sea, and even boasts its own small private beach. Comfort and pampering are top priority at this beautiful and stylish lodge. The dining room serves international cuisine, with modern Scottish influences. A welcoming ambience adds to the charm.

ST ANDREWS The Peat Inn ♿ 🍷 £££

On B940, Cupar, by St Andrews, Fife, KY15 5LH ***Tel*** *01334 840206*

Highly accomplished modern cooking, using regional produce and seasonal vegetables, has established this smart hotel-restaurant as one of the best in Britain. The innovative cuisine is prepared by renowned chef David Wilson, whose passion for good Scottish fare is evident in his creations. Lunch is particularly good value.

ST ANDREWS The Seafood Restaurant ♿ 🍷 ££££

Bruce Embankment, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AS ***Tel*** *01334 479475*

Located in an enviable seafront location, this superb restaurant offers a memorable dining experience, along with striking views of the coastline. The menu features a variety of seafood, which is carefully prepared and beautifully presented. The ambience at this stylish eatery is warm and cosy.

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ST MONANS The Seafood Restaurant

♿ 🍷 £££

16 W End, St Monans, Fife, KY10 2BX ***Tel*** *01333 730327*

An excellent place to enjoy the very best of local seafood. Set in a stunning water's edge location, this fine, modern restaurant is attractively and elegantly fitted out. Serves a wide range of fresh, seasonal fish and seafood, including prawns, crabs, scallops and more. The food is meticulously prepared, and the staff friendly and attentive.

SOUTH QUEENSFERRY Orocco Pier

🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

17 High St, S Queensferry, Edinburgh, EH30 9PP ***Tel*** *0131 331 1298*

Situated on the main street in South Queensferry, a short distance from Edinburgh city centre. Open all day for light snacks, coffees and meals, this elegant restaurant is a great place to enjoy the splendid views of the Forth estuary and its bridges. Fish and seafood play a prominent role in the menu.

TROON Highgrove House Hotel

🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Old Loans Rd, Troon, Ayrshire, KA7 7HL ***Tel*** *01292 312511*

Perched high on Dundonald Hill, this hotel-restaurant occupies a retired sea captain's house, and enjoys magnificent views over the Firth of Clyde and the Mull of Kintyre. The atmosphere is comfortable and welcoming. Serves informal meals from a varied menu, featuring some old favourites and newer innovations.

THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

ABERDEEN The Udny Arms

🧒 🍷 ££

Main St, Newburgh, Nr Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, AB41 6BL ***Tel*** *01358 789444*

This family-run, village hotel has a bistro and pub that is cosy, full of character, and serves up honest, wholesome food. The locals rate this place very highly, not least because it is great value for money. The staff are friendly and efficient which makes for a pleasant dining experience.

ABERDEEN Priory

🍷 £££

Mary Culter House Hotel, South Deeside Rd, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, AB12 5GB ***Tel*** *01224 732124*

Located on the banks of the River Dee, the Priory restaurant provides a lovely setting for a romantic candle-lit dinner, with its stone walls, open fire and intimate atmosphere. The menu is modern European with a Scottish twist, and every dish on it is prepared using excellent local produce. Closed Sun.

ABERDEEN The Silver Darling

🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Pocra Quay, Footdee, N Pier, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, AB11 5DQ ***Tel*** *01224 576229*

A superb seafood bistro restaurant located on the north side of Aberdeen harbour. This well-established venue is one of the best places to enjoy the daily catch, which has been carefully cooked and presented. Try and sit by the window if you can to make the most of the splendid coastline views. Closed Sun.

ALEXANDRIA Cameron House

♿ 🍷 £££££

Off A82, Loch Lomond, Alexandria, West Dunbartonshire, G83 8QZ ***Tel*** *01389 722504*

A formal dining room at this luxurious country house, situated on the tranquil shores of Loch Lomond and set amid beautiful grounds. The elegant and stylish Martin Wishart restaurant has won several awards, and offers exquisitely prepared meals in comfortable surroundings. The staff are well trained and friendly. An experience of a lifetime.

AUCHTERARDER Andrew Fairlie @ Gleneagles

👔 🍷 £££££

Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder, Perthshire, PH3 1NF ***Tel*** *01764 694267*

One of the finest dining experiences in Scotland. This elegant restaurant is set within the luxurious Gleneagles Hotel. The highly acclaimed chef presents imaginative French cuisine with a Scottish flavour. The must-try specialities include smoked lobster, roast Anjou squab with black truffle gnocchi and delicious hot chocolate biscuit dessert.

BALLATER Darroch Learg

🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Braemar Rd, Ballater, Aberdeenshire, AB35 5UX ***Tel*** *013397 55443*

A great restaurant, with a well-deserved reputation for excellence, set within a Victorian shooting lodge. The modern British cuisine is particularly outstanding, as the best local produce is used to create imaginative and flavoursome dishes. The setting of this award-winning venue is relaxed, and the adjacent conservatory adds to the charm.

CAIRNDOW Loch Fyne Oyster Bar

🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Clachan, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BL ***Tel*** *01499 600236*

Highly renowned restaurant offering an impressive array of fish and seafood. The menu features an excellent selection of both hot and cold meals, including delicious oysters, mussels, two veggie options and a lobster platter. Also offers steaks, lamb, and chicken dishes, as well as vegetarian choices.

CARNOUSTIE Ganges

🧒 ££

11 Park Ave, Carnoustie, Angus, DD7 7JA ***Tel*** *01241 853336*

Located in a former Masonic hall just off Carnoustie's high street, this Indian restaurant has already earned a reputation for its tasty food and affordable prices. All the classic Indian dishes can be found here, cooked to an excellent standard. Closed Mon.

COLBOST BY DUNVEGAN Three Chimneys ♿ 🍷 ££££

Colbost, Dunvegan, Isle of Skye, Inverness-shire, IV55 8ZT ***Tel*** *01470 511258*

Situated a short distance from Dunvegan, on the western shores of the loch. Once a stone-built crofter's cottage, this award-winning restaurant offers seafood and game, lovingly prepared with fresh local produce. The ambience is peaceful and relaxed, and the service friendly. One of the "not to miss" places in Scotland.

DRYMEN The Pottery 🧒 ♿ ££

The Square, Drymen, Argyll, G63 OBJ ***Tel*** *01360 660458*

Delightful restaurant and coffee shop, located in the square of the pretty little village of Drymen. Offers good, home-cooked food all day and delicious afternoon teas and lunches – all prepared fresh. Boasts a charming terrace. A popular stopping point for locals as well as tourists exploring the area.

DUFFTOWN A Taste of Speyside 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

10 Balvenie St, Dufftown, Moray, AB55 4AB ***Tel*** *01340 820860*

Set amid the mountains and glens of the Spey Valley, this restaurant has been offering an enjoyable culinary experience to customers for many years. The food here is wholesome and simply prepared, showing a strong commitment to quality local produce such as fish, poultry and game.

DUNKELD Howie's Bistro ♿ ££££

23 Atholl St, Dunkeld, Perthshire, PH8 0AR ***Tel*** *01350 728847*

Located in the town centre, Howie's Bistro offers a modern European menu alongside Scottish favourites. All ingredients are locally sourced and include fresh salmon and organic steaks. The dining room is contemporary, with exposed brick walls, modern furniture and large windows. There is an open fire and free Wi-Fi.

FORT WILLIAM Crannog Seafood Restaurant 🧒 ♿ £££

The Waterfront, Fort William, Perthshire, PH33 6DB ***Tel*** *01397 705589*

Nothing can detract from the simple pleasure of eating exquisitely fresh seafood while overlooking a panoramic loch view. The helpings at this restaurant are generous, the atmosphere is warm and relaxing and the service quite efficient.

INVERNESS Culloden House 🍷 £££

Culloden, Inverness, Inverness-shire, IV2 7BZ ***Tel*** *01463 790461*

A historic building with loads of character, set in lovely grounds, close to the Culloden Visitor Centre. Offers Scottish country house-style food, with sauces, jellies, sorbets and mousses interspersing a wide variety of hearty and appetizing meat, game and fish dishes. Accommodation is also available.

KILBERRY Kilberry Inn 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Kilberry, by Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Argyll, PA29 6YD ***Tel*** *01880 770223*

This former post office is now run as a pub in a quiet coastal village. Serves modern Scottish cuisine, with a constantly changing menu. However, a good selection of old favourites is also featured so not to disappoint the regular customers. Has a warm and cosy atmosphere.

KILLIECRANKIE Killiecrankie Hotel 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Off A9, nr Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5LG ***Tel*** *01796 473220*

Attractive, well-appointed hotel, which has the feel of a village inn. The food served here is healthy and wholesome, with some unusual, yet innovative twists. The excellent bar meals supplement the fine, dinnertime fare, both of which are served in cosy and inviting surroundings. The staff are friendly and hospitable.

KILLIN Bridge of Lochay Hotel and Restaurant 🧒 ♫ ⛱ 🍷 ££

Aberfeldy Road, Killin, Perthshire, FK21 8TS ***Tel*** *01567 820272*

Situated just on the outskirts of the village of Killin, this hotel-restaurant has established a well-deserved reputation for the quality of its food and friendly service. The menu offers tasty and inventive dishes prepared using plenty of local ingredients. In fine weather, a good selection of single malt whiskies can be enjoyed on the terrace.

KINCRAIG The Boathouse Restaurant 🧒 ♿ ££

Loch Insh, Kincraig, Inverness-shire, PH21 1NU ***Tel*** *01540 651272*

Charming log-cabin restaurant overlooking Loch Insh. Features a traditional Scottish menu with local fish, haggis and steak, and serves tea, coffee, snacks and home-baked dishes throughout the day. Offers a special menu for children, and encourages outdoor meals on the balcony in summer. Also has a gift shop and a bar.

KIRKWALL, ORKNEY Foveran Restaurant 🧒 ♿ ££

Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SF ***Tel*** *01856 872389*

One of the best restaurants on Orkney, the Foveran is expertly run by the Doull family. The menu makes good use of the abundant local produce, including beef and fresh seafood, with the famous Highland Park whisky used in some dishes. The lovely dining room has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

KYLESKU The Kylesku Hotel 🧒 🍷 £££

On A894 by Lairg, Sutherland, IV27 4HW ***Tel*** *01971 502231*

Lochs and mountains provide a magnificent backdrop to this hotel, which is located on the quayside. The bar and restaurant menus are extensive, and feature an array of local dishes. However, the speciality here is the freshly caught fish. The tranquil surroundings create an excellent setting in which to unwind and relax.

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LOCH EPORT Langass Lodge 🧒 🍷 £££

Loch Eport, Isle of North Uist, Outer Hebrides, HS6 5HA ***Tel*** *01876 580285*

One of the finest dining experiences to be found in the Hebrides, set in a beautiful location on this wild island. The magical menu takes in the freshest of local seafood, game and beef. All vegetables are homegrown. Reservations are essential if not lodging at the hotel.

OBAN Wide Mouthed Frog 🧒 ♿ ££

Dunstaffnage Bay, by Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PX ***Tel*** *01631 567005*

Situated between the villages of Connel and Oban, this restaurant is a popular meeting place, particularly with the sailing fraternity. Good food and convivial surroundings make this a deservedly bustling venue. The menus feature local produce and the food is well cooked and presented. Accommodation also available in summer.

OBAN Ee'usk ♿ £££

N Pier, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5QD ***Tel*** *01631 565666*

This stylish restaurant occupies a great waterside setting, and has something for everyone. Serves mouthwatering seafood, using fresh catches of the day. A must-visit for those who enjoy fish. A favoured choice of many, this eatery also offers great views of the coastline.

OBAN The Knipoch Hotel 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

On A816, nr Oban, Argyll, PA34 4QT ***Tel*** *01852 316251*

Situated on the outskirts of Oban, this traditional country hotel has been a popular stopping place for many years. The bar meals here are excellent, while the dinners range from three to five courses. In addition, the huge array of vegetables and flamboyant puddings are as eyecatching as they are tasty.

PERTH The Bothy 🧒 ♿ ££

33 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5EN ***Tel*** *01738 449792*

This stylish restaurant, in the centre of Perth, has earned itself a well-deserved reputation for serving great seafood and quality Scottish favourites such as black pudding with scallops. The service is friendly and efficient, and the varied menu has something for everyone.

PERTH 63 Tay Street 🍷 £££

63 Tay St, Perth, Perthshire, PH2 8NN ***Tel*** *01738 441451*

63 Tay Street has won awards for its customer service and attention to detail. The modern Scottish cuisine is superb and the service friendly and professional. The menus feature the best regional produce available, which is used to create imaginative dishes.

PERTH Let's Eat 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

77–79 Kinnoull St, Perth, Perthshire, PH1 5EZ ***Tel*** *01738 643377*

Local ingredients and passionate owners play a prominent role in this restaurant's success. Offers relaxing and comfortable surroundings, seasonal menus and skilled cooking. Fish, beef, venison and lamb are the mainstays of the delicious meals and are usually accompanied by fresh vegetables and creative sauces.

PLOCKTON Plockton Shores Restaurant 🧒 🍷 ££

Harbour St, Plockton, Ross-shire, IV52 8TN ***Tel*** *01599 544263*

Nestled on the shores of Loch Carron is this restaurant specializing in fish and shellfish. Diners can take in the spectacular views from across the bay while enjoying dishes such as Cullen skink (smoked haddock in a potato and parsley soup) or seared fillets of Mallaig sea bass served with aubergines and oven-roasted tomatoes.

PORT APPIN The Airds Hotel 🧒 ♿ 🍷 ££££

Port Appin, Argyll, PA38 4DF ***Tel*** *01631 730236*

This hotel-restaurant is set on a fine waterfront location in Appin, and has a cheerful and comfortable interior. Offers a well balanced menu, with a variety of seafood, poultry and game, and uses fresh local produce to prepare appetizing dishes. The service is excellent, and the ambience warm and inviting.

SGARASTA BHEAG Scarista House 🍷 ££

Sgarasta Bheag, Isle of Harris, HS3 3HX ***Tel*** *01859 550238*

This Georgian house boasts stunning views of the surrounding ocean and mountains. The restaurant keeps things simple with a compact and bijou menu, and the sensational food is all locally sourced. Tasting the locally caught seafood is a particular treat. Guest rooms are available, and two nearby cottages can be rented.

STANLEY, NR PERTH Ballathie Hotel Restaurant 🧒 ♿ 🍷 £££

Kinclaven, Stanley, Perthshire, PH1 4QN ***Tel*** *01250 8883268*

A short drive from Perth, this country-house hotel is beautifully located on the banks of the River Tay. Dine in the hotel's main restaurant, where specialities include local venison and fine Scottish beef, or visit the bar for a lighter snack. It is popular for Sunday lunch, and during the summer months afternoon tea is served on the lawns.

ULLAPOOL The Ceilidh Place 🧒 ♫ 🍷 ££

14 W Argyle St, Ullapool, Sutherland, IV26 2TY ***Tel*** *01854 612103*

An interesting building, with a great atmosphere. Situated in an award-winning hotel with its own bookshop, rooms and bar, this restaurant serves superbly skilled and imaginative dishes, which are unashamedly local and of the highest quality. Meals incorporate fish, meat, poultry, vegetables and fruits – all prepared simply, yet excellently.

British Pubs

No tour of Britain could be complete without some exploration of its public houses. These are a great social institution, descendants of centuries of hostelries, ale houses and stagecoach halts. Some have colourful histories or fascinating contents, and occupy a central role in the community, staging quiz games and folk dancing. Many of those listed below are lovely buildings, or have attractive settings. Most serve a variety of beers, spirits and wine by the glass.

A "free house" is independent and will stock several leading regional beers, but most pubs are "tied" – this means that they are owned by a brewery and only stock that brewery's selection.

Many pubs offer additional attractions such as live music and beer gardens with picnic tables. Traditional pub food and more varied gastropub cuisine is often served at lunchtime, and increasingly, in the evenings as well. Traditional pub games take many forms, including cribbage, shove ha'penny, skittles, dominoes and darts.

LONDON

Bloomsbury: *Lamb*
94 Lamb's Conduit St, WC1.
Tel *020 7405 0713.* **Map** 3 C5
Unspoilt Victorian pub with lovely cut-glass "snob screens" and theatrical photographs. Small courtyard at the rear. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸

City: *Black Friar*
174 Queen Victoria St, EC4.
Tel *020 7236 5474.* **Map** 12 F2
Eccentric inside and out, with intriguing Art Nouveau decor. Attentive service. 🍴 🚸

City: *Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese*
145 Fleet St EC4.
Tel *020 7353 6170.* **Map** 12 E1
Authentic 17th-century inn that evokes shades of Dickens's London. Its stark glory is best enjoyed in front of the open fires. 🍴 🚸

Hammersmith: *Dove*
19 Upper Mall, W6.
Tel *020 8748 9474.*
One of west London's most attractive riverside pubs – you can watch rowing crews from the terrace. 🍴 ⛱

Hampstead: *Spaniards Inn*
Spaniards Lane, NW3.
Tel *020 8731 8406.*
Famous Hampstead landmark dating from the 16th century, once part of a tollgate. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Kensington: *Windsor Castle*
114 Campden Hill Rd, W8.
Tel *020 7243 8797.* **Map** 7 C4
A civilized Georgian inn with oak furnishings and open fires. The walled garden attracts well-heeled crowds in summer. Hearty English food. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Southwark: *George Inn*
77 Borough High St, SE1.
Tel *020 7407 2056.* **Map** 13 B4
Quaint coaching inn with unique galleried courtyard. Rooms ramble upstairs and downstairs, and the overspill sits outside. Morris dancers may be seen performing here at times *(see p120).* 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

THE DOWNS AND CHANNEL COAST

Alciston: *Rose Cottage Inn*
Alciston nr Polegate.
Tel *01323 8703774.*
In a creeper-covered cottage, this rural Sussex pub is decorated in classic rustic style, with beamed ceilings and open fireplaces. The local ales and busy kitchen add to its warmth. 🍴 ⛱

Brighton: *Market Inn*
Market St, BN1 1HH.
Tel *01273 329483.*
Once home to the Prince of Wales's chimney sweep, this is now something of a Brighton institution, spilling out onto The Lanes in the summer months. 🍴 ⛱

Charlton: *The Fox Goes Free*
Charlton nr Chichester.
Tel *01243 811461.*
This lovely 16th-century inn serves local ales and cider straight from barrels. Full à la carte menu and great selection of bar meals. Live music on Wednesdays. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Ditchling: *The Bull Hotel*
2 High St, BN6 8SY.
Tel *01273 843147.*
Housed in a 14th-century building, the main bar is large, rambling and pleasantly traditional with characterful old wooden floorboards, beams and furniture, and a blazing fire. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸

Faversham: *White Horse Inn*
The Street, Boughton.
Tel *01227 751343.*
Chaucer gave this place a passing mention in *The Canterbury Tales.* Among hop gardens and orchards, this genial country pub resounds with echoes from the past. Thirteen en suite bedrooms. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Isle of Wight: *The Wight Mouse Inn*
Newport Rd, Chale.
Tel *01983 730431.*
This pub draws in the locals with its range of real ales. Jazz music on Thursdays. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸

Lewes: *Six Bells Inn*
Chiddingly, nr Lewes.
Tel *01825 872227.*
Once a stopover for stagecoaches, this cosy drop-in now does a fine job of reviving weary ramblers and thirsty locals. Supposedly haunted by a grey cat and one Sara French, hanged in 1852 after serving her husband a pie seasoned with arsenic. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Romsey: *The Star Inn*
East Tytherley, nr Romsey.
Tel *01794 340225.*
Popular watering hole on the edge of the New Forest, overlooking the village cricket pitch. The rivers Test and Dunn are nearby. Overnight accommodation available. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Rye: *The Mermaid*
Mermaid St. ***Tel*** *01797 223065.*
Dating from 1136, this is one of the country's oldest inns. Constructed from old ship timbers, The Mermaid is an evocative slice of England's nautical history. Sit by the open fire and spot the celebrities having a quiet drink. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Walliswood: *The Scarlett Arms*
Walliswood Green Rd.
Tel *01306 627243.*
Handsome inn with flagstone bar, wooden benches and a grand inglenook fireplace. The staff make the experience all the more congenial. Occasional live music. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Key to Symbols *see back cover flap*

EAST ANGLIA

Cambridge: *The Boathouse*
14 Chesterton Rd. ***Tel*** *01223 460905*. This riverside pub boasts a natty nautical theme and exceedingly comfortable armchairs. The beer garden is always warm and toasty, courtesy of heaters, allowing you to watch the river flow all year around. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ ♿ 🍺

Itteringham: *The Walpole Arms*
The Common. ***Tel*** *01263 587258*. Oak-beamed inn that has been serving locally brewed ales since the 1700s. The restaurant is also highly regarded. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Kings Lynn: *The Lord Nelson*
Walsingham Rd, Burnham Thorpe. ***Tel*** *01328 738241*. This watering hole was once one of Lord Nelson's favourite haunts. Kick back on any of the old high-backed benches, and wait for the attentive staff to take your order. Private functions are held in the handsome, flagstoned Victory Barn. Quiz Tuesday lunchtime. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Norfolk: *Red Lion*
Wells Rd, Stiffkey. ***Tel*** *01328 830552*. The oldest parts of the simple bars have a few beams, aged flooring tiles or bare boards, and big open fires. A back gravel terrace has seats and tables for enjoying the bar food on a sunny day, and some pleasant walks are nearby. Real ale and 30 malt whiskies are available. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Norwich: *The Fat Cat*
49 W End St. ***Tel*** *01603 624364*. Rightly famed for its extensive real ale selection, The Fat Cat is full of attractions, starting with the well-stocked bar and the lively local clientele. 🍴 ♿

Ringstead: *The Gin Trap Inn*
6 High St. ***Tel*** *01485 525264*. Close to the Norfolk coastline and just on the edge of the Ringstead Downs nature reserve, this classic country pub features hand-pumped real ales and cosy log fires. The restaurant has a devoted following. Overnight accommodation available. Quiz every other Sunday. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Southwold: *The Crown Hotel*
High St. ***Tel*** *01502 722186*. The pub remains the star of this newly converted hotel, though the chic restaurant is becoming a firm local favourite. Excellent selection of wines at the bar. 🍴 🚸 ♿

Stowmarket: *The Buxhall Crown*
Mill Rd, Buxhall. ***Tel*** *01449 736521*. Local real ales take pride of place in this old village pub that also does a roaring trade in home-cooked food with locally sourced ingredients. Good list of wine by the glass. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Suffolk: *The Six Bells at Bardwell*
Bardwell, Bury St Edmunds. ***Tel*** *01359 250820*. This village green charmer, dating from the 1500s, offers superb food and peaceful accommodation. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Walden: *Queen's Head Inn*
High St, Littlebury, Saffron Walden. ***Tel*** *01799 522251*. Attractive coaching inn with a relaxed, family ambience. Stocks a decent selection of ales and has a heady wine list. There are six en suite rooms. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🍺

THAMES VALLEY

Aylesbury: *The King's Head*
Kings Head Passage, Market Sq, Buckinghamshire. ***Tel*** *01296 718812*. A small oasis in the heart of a pretty market town, this airy pub has award-winning food and ales and a courtyard for whiling away long summer afternoons. 🍴 ⛱

Bedford: *The Park*
98 Kimbolton Rd, Bedfordshire. ***Tel*** *01234 409305*. This warm and friendly pub has traditional features such as oak beams and old fireplaces. Good, wholesome food on offer. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Bicester: *The Hundred Acres*
Hart Place, Oxfordshire. ***Tel*** *01869 329981*. A homely pub serving food and open late on weekends. Welcomes children until 8pm. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🍺

Chipping Norton: *The Falkland Arms*
Great Tew, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. ***Tel*** *01608 683653*. Award-winning cask ales and a wonderful atmosphere. You can try beer tasters before you buy at this traditional gem of a place. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🍺

Faringdon: *The Trout*
Tadpole Bridge, Buckland Marsh, nr Faringdon. ***Tel*** *01367 870382*. Always busy and bustling, this 17th-century pub boasts a river-front garden where customers can savour local dishes. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Great Hormead: *The Three Tuns*
High Street, Hertfordshire. ***Tel*** *01763 289409*. A traditional thatched and beamed village pub with a cosy open fire in winter and a patio in summer. Hearty and reasonably priced food. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🍺

Luton: *The Bricklayers Arms*
High Town Rd, Bedfordshire. ***Tel*** *01582 611017*. A friendly pub with ice-cold beers and plenty of quiz machines. Order whatever's on the left-hand pump, since its contents are changed constantly. 🍺

Newbury: *The Monument*
Northbrook St, Berkshire. ***Tel*** *01635 41964*. The busiest pub around, there are different events every night of the week and a wide range of pub games. There is also a beer garden. ♫ ⛱ 🍺

Oxford: *The White Horse*
52 Broad St. ***Tel*** *01865 728318*. This cosy pub has loads of character, with pictures of old sports stars on the walls and a great range of beers. 🍴

Watton-at-Stone: *The Bull*
113 High St, Herts. ***Tel*** *01920 831032*. Sit around the open-hearth fire at this 14th-century inn, or in the picturesque garden. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 🍺

WESSEX

Abbotsbury: *Ilchester Arms*
Market St, Dorset. ***Tel*** *01305 871243*. A prominent landmark in this quaint village, the 18th-century stone Grade II listed inn features a deluxe conservatory. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🍺

Bath: *The Bell*
103 Walcot St, Bath, Avon. ***Tel*** *01225 460426*. Splendid little pub, with billiards, live music and organic beers. Soak in the friendly atmosphere while tucking into tasty sandwiches and cold plates. ♫ ⛱ 🚸 🍺

Bridport: *Shave Cross Inn*
Shave Cross, Marshwood Vale, Dorset. ***Tel*** *01308 868358*. Award-winning inn with fine ales as well as English, Caribbean and international food. Five rooms. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🍺

Pensford: *Carpenter's Arms*
Stanton Wick, nr Pensford, Somerset.
Tel *01761 490202*.
Overlooking the lovely Chew Valley, this welcoming pub is set among a row of small miners' houses. It has an excellent menu and a comprehensive wine list. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Salisbury: *Haunch of Venison*
1 Minster St, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
Tel *01722 411313*.
The severed, mummified hand of an 18th-century card player is on display (along with more pleasant antiques) at this 650-year-old pub. The restaurant is a must-visit for a good meal. Keep an eye out for the resident ghost. 🍴 🚸

Salisbury: *The New Inn*
41/47 New St, Wiltshire.
Tel *01722 326662*.
The low-beamed ceilings and intimate interior lighting here are offset by fine views of the cathedral spire opposite. The menu is broad and vegetarian-friendly. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Dawlish: *The Mount Pleasant*
Mount Pleasant Rd, Dawlish Warren, Devon. ***Tel*** *01626 863151*.
This pub is renowned for its views over Exmouth from the dining area. Drinkers visit once and become loyal customers for years. The warm ambience makes a winning combination with super value for money. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🎯

Exeter: *The Bridge Inn*
Bridge Hill, Topsham, Devon.
Tel *01392 873862*.
With its pink exterior, you can't miss this riverside pub, which has been run by the same family for 111 years. Its several separate rooms with fireplaces are truly snug in winter, while the garden is gorgeous on sunny days. A pub with no bar, they serve drinks and bar snacks through a hatch in the corridor. ♫ ⛱ 🚸

Falmouth: *Pandora Inn*
Restronguet Creek, Mylor Bridge, nr Falmouth, Cornwall.
Tel *01326 372678*.
Medieval pub with a thatched roof by the waterside. Full of cosy corners, low wooden ceilings, panelled walls and a variety of maritime memorabilia. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Knowstone: *Masons Arms Inn Devon*. ***Tel*** *01398 341231*.
An atmospheric Grade II listed cottage that is full of character. The decor includes farm tools and a bread-oven fireplace. Delicious restaurant food and friendly hosts. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Lynton: *Fox and Goose*
Parracombe, Barnstaple.
Tel *01598 763239*.
A friendly and welcoming pub/ B&B with very good food and beer. The log fire, plank ceiling and assorted mounted antlers and horns give a proper Exmoor feel to the place. Serves real ale and local cider. 🍴 ⛱

Newton Abbot: *Two Mile Oak*
Totnes Rd.
Tel *01803 812411*.
An old coaching inn with a beamed lounge and an alcove just for two. A mix of wooden tables and chairs, and a fine winter log fire. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Penzance: *The Pirate Inn*
Alverton Rd, Alverton, Cornwall.
Tel *01736 366094*.
Recommended by the local youth hostel, this is a friendly stop for a beer and sandwich. Visitors often invest in the souvenir T-shirts sold here. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Porthleven: *Harbour Inn*
Commercial Rd, Cornwall.
Tel *01326 573876*.
Watch the sun go down and sip a top-quality pint as you sit by Porthleven's harbour. Recently refurbished, this pub retains its original character, the modern sofas and coffee tables notwithstanding. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Saltash: *The Cecil Arms*
St Stephens, Cornwall.
Tel *01752 843408*.
A pub with its own dedicated community, it serves wonderful ales and food. The bartenders are exceedingly friendly. Children welcome until 8.30pm. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Tiverton: *The White Ball Inn*
Bridge St, Devon. ***Tel*** *01884 251525*.
Although the decor is slightly generic, there is an unusual visible well with a glass top. Vertigo sufferers should not look down. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

THE HEART OF ENGLAND

Alderminster: *The Bell*
Warwickshire. ***Tel*** *01789 450414*.
Smart 18th-century coach inn just 6.4 km (4 miles) out of Stratford-upon-Avon, The Bell also boasts a high-class restaurant. Great views over Stour Valley from the garden and conservatory. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Armscote: *Fox & Goose*
Warwickshire. ***Tel*** *01608 682293*.
This atmospheric bar-restaurant (and B&B) is perfect for a light supper or relaxing drink. Sit in the vast lawns during summer. The bar has an open fire in winter. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Ashleworth: *Queen's Arms*
The Village, Gloucestershire.
Tel *01452 700395*.
Sixteenth-century inn with a noticeable Victorian makeover, this pub features wood-beamed ceilings and antique furnishings. The fantastic kitchen serves traditional pub food as well as more international flavours. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Bickley Moss: *Cholmondeley Arms*
Malpas, Cheshire. ***Tel*** *01829 720300*.
The menu in this family-friendly pub includes the very best of traditional local cuisine. Children will adore the desserts – baked syrup sponge, black cherry Pavlova, bakewell tart, ice creams and sorbets. Accommodation is also available. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Bretforton: *Fleece Inn*
Near Evesham. ***Tel*** *01386 831173*.
This real ale pub with its half-timbered façade is also a National Trust property. Beautifully located in the Vale of Evesham. Rooms available. Parking in village square. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Farnborough: *Inn at Farnborough*
Near Banbury. ***Tel*** *01295 690615*.
Classy inn in a Grade II listed free house from the 1700s, this inn serves delicious local cuisine, including sumptuous organic steak burgers. Large garden and conservatory. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Shrewsbury: *Armoury*
Welsh Bridge, Victoria Quay.
Tel *01743 340525*.
This converted 18th-century warehouse, with views over the river, is a popular open-plan venue. Go early if you want to enjoy a leisurely sit-down meal. 🍴 🚸 ♿ 🎯

Welford-on-Avon: *The Bell Inn*
Nr Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. ***Tel*** *01789 750353*.
This lovely 17th-century country pub serves wonderful real ale and traditional bar food. The Bell Inn lies just a short distance southwest of Stratford-upon-Avon. Recently renovated, there is a delightful seating area in the garden. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Wenlock Edge: *Wenlock Edge Inn*

Hilltop, nr Much Wenlock, Shropshire. ***Tel*** *01746 785678*. This award-winning pub, under new ownership, is popular with walkers – there is a comprehensive selection of maps and guidebooks on stand-by. A fairly homely affair, Wenlock Edge Inn serves good bar food and ales. Three rooms on a bed and breakfast basis. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

EAST MIDLANDS

Alderwasley: *The Bear Inn*

Belper, Derbyshire. ***Tel*** *01629 822585*. Friendly country pub with real olde-worlde charm, The Bear Inn serves a good range of real ales and delicious cuisine. Popular with locals and visitors alike. Ten rooms are also available. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Birchover: *Druid Inn*

Main St, nr Matlock Derbyshire. ***Tel*** *01629 650302*. In the lovely village of Birchover, the old but recently revamped Druid Inn has an excellent local menu. Legend has it that the nearby Row Tor rocks were once a place of Druid rituals. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Grimsthorpe: *Black Horse*

Grimsthorpe Bourne, Lincolnshire. ***Tel*** *01788 591093*. Nestled just below Grimsthorpe Castle, this early 18th-century inn has been renovated into a high-class pub-eaterie. Lovers of the outdoors will enjoy the rambling grounds and lakeside nature trail. Return to enjoy the cosy atmosphere of the bar and spend the night in one of the six charmingly old-fashioned rooms. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Hathersage: *Plough Inn*

Leadmill Bridge, Hope Valley, Derbyshire. ***Tel*** *01433 650319*. Enjoying an idyllic location on the banks of River Derwent, the 16th-century Plough Inn is set on nine acres of private parklands and offers the perfect summer stop off. Fabulous food, great views and six en suite rooms. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Lyddington: *Old White Hart*

51 Main St, Rutland. ***Tel*** *01572 821 703*. Charming country inn with an award-winning à la carte menu. The Old White Hart has lovingly retained the oak-beamed ceilings, exposed brick walls and open fires of the renovated 17th-century stone building. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Mumby: *Red Lion*

Hogsthorpe Rd, Lincolnshire. ***Tel*** *01507 490391*. Run by the local Bateman's Brewery, this pub is an excellent choice to sample the flavours of Lincolnshire. On the menu are traditional dishes prepared with locally sourced ingredients. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Nottingham: *Cock and Hoop*

25 High Pavement, Nottingham. ***Tel*** *0115 852 3231*. This traditional Victorian Ale House offers a friendly, civilised retreat where punters can enjoy superb real ale and excellent wines. The restaurant serves excellent British home cooking. Small dogs welcome. 🍴 🚸

Stamford: *The George of Stamford*

71 St Martins, Lincolnshire. ***Tel*** *01780 750750*. One of England's most famous coaching inns, the George's bar, restaurant and rooms are all rich in history. Other than the award-winning restaurant menu, there are also more informal pub food choices served in the ivy-covered courtyard and in the York Bar. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

LANCASHIRE AND THE LAKES

Ambleside: *The Britannia Inn*

Elterwater, Cumbria. ***Tel*** *015394 37210*. This traditional inn began life as a farmhouse and cobbler's. Standing on the village green and surrounded by stunning scenery, it is a delightful place to unwind in after a day's walk. There are also nine en suite rooms. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Clitheroe: *The Shireburn Arms*

Hurst Green, Lancashire. ***Tel*** *01254 826518*. Located in a picturesque village, this characterful 17th-century inn was one of author JRR Tolkein's favourite haunts. The Shireburn Arms takes its name from the family who built Stonyhurst College and nearby almshouses. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Downham: *Assheton Arms*

Downham, Lancashire. ***Tel*** *01200 441227*. Previously known as The George and Dragon, this pub was renamed following the elevation of the local squire, Ralph Assheton, to Lord Clitheroe. Facing the old church in a pretty village of stone cottages, it has even been featured in films and television series. Specialities on the menu include seafood and stone-cooked steaks. 🍴 🚸

Hawkshead: *Queen's Head Hotel*

Main St, Cumbria. ***Tel*** *01539 436271*. Situated at the heart of one of the prettiest Lake District villages. The superb food ranges from simple sandwiches at the bar to full meals at the restaurant. William Wordsworth was schooled in this village. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Hawkshead: *Tower Bank Arms*

Near Sawrey, Hawkshead, Cumbria. ***Tel*** *01539 436334*. Standing in a picturesque village, this 17th-century inn is very close to Hill Top, where the legendary children's book author Beatrix Potter once lived. It even features in one of her well-known stories, *The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck*. Three letting rooms. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Liverpool: *Ship and Mitre*

133 Dale St, Merseyside. ***Tel*** *0151 236 0859*. Close to the city centre, this traditional pub has a reputation for serving a wide range of real ales. Hot food served daily. Pub quiz on Thursdays. 🍴 🚸

Lonsdale: *Snooty Fox Tavern*

Main St, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria. ***Tel*** *01524 271308*. A listed Jacobean coaching inn in the centre of the town, the Snooty Fox lies in the picturesque Lune Valley. Its rambling bars and cobbled courtyard exude a quaint charm. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🎯

Manchester: *Lass o' Gowrie*

36 Charles St, Chorlton-cum-Medlock. ***Tel*** *0161 273 6932*. Famous for its cask ales, this lively pub is popular with students. The menu offers a range of freshly cooked food. Entertainment comes in the form of live music and comedy nights. 🍴 ♫ 🚸 🎯

YORKSHIRE AND HAMBERSIDE

Askrigg: *Kings Arms*

Market Place, N Yorks. ***Tel*** *01969 650817*. Fans of James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small* will recognize this as "The Drover's Arms". There is a broad menu of appetizing food and five real ales on tap in the bar. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Byland Abbey: *Abbey Inn*

Byland Abbey, N Yorks. ***Tel*** *01347 868204*. This charming inn, opposite the evocative ruins of a 12th-century abbey, has a fine restaurant. It also has three rooms. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Driffield: *Wellington Inn*
19 The Green, Lund, Driffield, E Yorks.
Tel *01377 217294.*
Just north of the minster town of Beverley, this attractive pub overlooks a charming village green. Its fine food and friendly service have won it an enviable reputation. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🎯

Flamborough: *The Seabirds*
Tower St, Flamborough, E Yorks.
Tel *01262 850242.*
Near the bird sanctuary *(see pp400–401)* on the chalk cliffs of Flamborough Head, this pub is popular with both locals and walkers. The specialities on the menu revolve around fish, but a range of other dishes is on offer too. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Lancaster:
The Game Cock Inn
The Green Austwick, via Lancaster, N Yorks. ***Tel*** *01524 251226.*
Close to the Yorkshire "Three Peaks", this 17th-century coaching inn is the focal point of the tiny village. The award-winning food is home-cooked by a French chef, and the menus offer a range of options – everything from a simple snack to an elaborate dinner. Dog friendly and rooms available. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Leyburn: *The Blue Lion*
E Witton, Leyburn, N Yorks.
Tel *01969 624273.*
An 18th-century coaching and drover's inn within a charming Wensleydale village, it retains many original features. Open fires warm the rooms in winter. The food is traditional, but often with an unusual twist.
🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Skipton: *The Red Lion Hotel*
By the Bridge, Burnsall, N Yorks.
Tel *01756 720204.*
Before the bridge was built across the Wharfe at Burnsall, this 16th-century inn used to operate a ferry across the river. Today, it has a reputation for fine food and its generous range of real ales and wine. Dogs welcome. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

NORTHUMBRIA

Barnard: *The Morritt Hotel*
Greta Bridge, Barnard Castle, Co Durham. ***Tel*** *01833 627232.*
Located between Carlisle and London, this 17th-century stone farmhouse eventually became a coaching inn. Dickens stayed here while writing *Nicholas Nickleby.* A mural by local artist John Gilroy depicts Dingley Dell from *The Pickwick Papers.* Twenty-seven rooms are available. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Consett: *Lord Crewe Arms*
Blanchland, nr Consett, Co Durham.
Tel *01434 675251.*
Built in 1160 as the abbot's house, this delightful hotel faces an unusual, enclosed cobbled square at the heart of a very pretty village. Dine in the formal restaurant or opt for the more casual style and menu at the bar. Dog friendly. Accommodation available. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Cornhill on Tweed: *Black Bull*
Etal Village, Northumb.
Tel *01890 820200.*
Close to the Norman castle in this attractive estate village, the award-winning Black Bull is famous as the only thatched pub in Northumberland. Ingredients for the home-cooked food are sourced locally wherever possible and the menu always includes tasty vegetarian options. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🎯

Craster: *Jolly Fisherman*
Off B1339 nr Alnwick, Northumb.
Tel *01665 576461.*
Unassuming local pub with lovely sea views. Home-made crab soup and seafood are specialities.
🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🎯

Hedley on the Hill:
The Feathers Inn
Northumb. ***Tel*** *01661 843607.*
This family-run pub is popular with foodies, and serves traditional British fare. There is always a good selection of vegetarian dishes too and at least four guest ales on tap at the bar. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Hexham: *Dipton Mill Inn*
Dipton Mill Rd, Northumb.
Tel *01434 606577.*
Originally an 18th-century mill, this family-run pub lies beside Dipton Burn in a wooded valley. The characterful bar stocks a range of locally brewed beers and serves home-made food. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🎯

Kielder Water:
The Pheasant Inn
Stannersburn, Falstone, Northumb.
Tel *01434 240382.*
This 17th-century farmhouse has functioned as a pub for the last 250 years. Popular with visitors to Kielder Water and the surrounding forest. Meals are served at the bar, with the dining room opening for Sunday lunch and evening dinner.
🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🎯

Newton: *Cook and Barker Inn*
Newton on the Moor, Northumberland.
Tel *01665 575234.*
Once a forge, the inn got its name from its first proprietors, a Captain Cook who married a Miss Barker. Dine à la carte in the restaurant, where the original fireplace and well remain. Hearty pub meals are available at the bar. Accommodation available. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Seahouses: *The Olde Ship Hotel*
Northumb. ***Tel*** *01665 720200.*
Situated above the tiny fishing harbour with a view across Farne Islands. Interesting nautical memorabilia decorate the bars. Pleasant beer garden. Accommodation is also available. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

NORTH WALES

Capel Curig: *Bryn Tyrch Hotel*
Conwy. ***Tel*** *01690 720223.*
Pretty country inn in the heart of Snowdonia National Park, this is a popular stop-off point for walkers and climbers. Traditional Welsh cuisine. Great views of Mt Snowdon from the bar. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Denbigh: *Hope & Anchor*
94 Vale St, Denbighshire.
Tel *01745 815115.*
Small, traditional village pub with a bustling beer garden. Darts competitions and weekly quizzes are also hosted, and there is music on Fridays and Saturdays. Rooms on a B&B basis. 🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 🎯

Ganllwyd: *Tyn-y-groes*
Dolgellau, Gwynedd.
Tel *01341 440275.*
Picturesque 16th-century inn in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park, Tyn-y-groes hotel and pub offers a friendly base for walking, mountain biking and fishing in the park. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿ 🎯

Glanwydden: *Queen's Head*
Llandudno. ***Tel*** *01492 546570.*
This bustling village pub has a reputed bar menu. Tables at the Queen's Head fill quickly so it is wise to arrive early. Great range of real ales. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

Maentwrog: *Grapes Hotel*
Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd.
Tel *01766 590365.*
Said to be haunted, this Grade II listed coaching inn serves fine ales and home-made cuisine in a stunning setting. Pitch pine pews, exposed stone walls and a roaring fire in winter all add to the effect.
🍴 ♫ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Mold: *Glasfryn*
Raikes Lane, Sychdyn, Mold.
Tel *01352 750500.*
Pretty village pub known for its theatre-going clientele (Theatre Clywd is just next door), Glasfryn is a converted farmhouse pub with a warm welcome. Good menu and wine list. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Nant Gwynant: *Pen-y-Gwryd*
Gwynedd. ***Tel*** *01286 870211*.
Hotel with a bustling pub in the shadow of Mt Snowdon. It is here that the 1953 Everest team holed up here while training for the ultimate ascent. Popular with walkers for its prime location, it also serves great food and drink. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Overton Bridge: *Cross Foxes Inn*
Erbistock, Wrexham, Clwyd.
Tel *01978 780380*.
Fabulous food in a fabulous setting, Cross Foxes Inn, on the banks of the River Dee, is a very welcoming 18th-century coaching inn with a distinctive dining room. Good choice of real ales. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

SOUTH AND MID-WALES

Aberaeron: *Harbourmaster*
Pen Cei, Ceredigion.
Tel *01545 570755*.
Fabulous hotel-pub overlooking the town's picturesque harbour. This blue-washed building serves tasty seafood such as Cardigan Bay crab and lobster, Aberaeron mackerel and several other such freshly caught delicacies in its restaurant. Also has 13 rooms. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Aberystwyth: *Halfway Inn*
Devils Bridge Rd, Pisgah.
Tel *01970 880631*.
Halfway between Aberystwyth and Devil's Bridge (hence the name), this large inn has steadily built a strong reputation for its fine food and fabulous real ale. Designated restaurant area away from the bar. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 🔥

East Aberthaw: *Blue Anchor*
Barry, S Glamorgan.
Tel *01446 750329*.
This recently refurbished, thatched pub in the seaside town of Barry is just 16 km (10 miles) from Cardiff, Blue Anchor has a friendly little bar as well as an elegant restaurant serving superior cuisine. Estuary walks nearby. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Hay-on-Wye: *The Pandy Inn*
Dorstone, Herefordshire.
Tel *01981 550273*.
A picturesque pub with rooms just over the border in Herefordshire, The Pandy Inn boasts a long and illustrious history. Supposedly the oldest pub in the county, it played host to Oliver Cromwell during the 17th-century Civil War. The restaurant seats 50 and serves wholesome, filling and tasty food. Dogs welcome. 🍴 ♬ ⛱ 🚸

Pembroke Ferry: *Ferry Inn*
Pembroke Dock.
Tel *01646 682947*.
This early 17th-century inn serves delicious seafood in a prime location overlooking the harbour. Ferry Inn has an extensive waterfront terrace, which is a perfect setting for languid summer dining. Check out the specials board for locally caught fish. 🍴 ♬ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Penallt: *Boat Inn*
Lone Lane. ***Tel*** *01600 712615*.
With a stunning location on the banks of River Wye, the beer garden of Boat Inn is a great place to relax with a chilled drink on a warm summer's day. Bar food is available. Access is via a footbridge. 🍴 ♬ ⛱ 🚸

Pontyclun: *High Corner House*
The Square, Llanharan.
Tel *01443 238056*.
An old inn dating from the early 1700s with three luxury rooms, High Corner House serves traditional, hearty pub food in its jazzed-up restaurant. It is conveniently located between Cardiff and the Swansea coast. 🍴 ♬ 🚸 ♿

Tintern: *The Rose & Crown Inn*
Monmouth Rd, Monmouthshire.
Tel *01291 689254*.
On the banks of the River Wye, in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Rose & Crown dates back to at least 1835. Walkers and dogs welcome. 🍴 🚸 ♿

Usk: *Nag's Head*
Twyn Sq. ***Tel*** *01291 672820*.
Atmospheric village pub with an extensive menu that is very reasonably priced for the size of the portions. The warmly welcoming establishment places an emphasis on the home-made food, but there is also a bustling bar area. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸 ♿

THE LOWLANDS

Edinburgh: *Café Royal Circle Bar*
West Register St.
Tel *0131 556 1884*.
Refurbished in Victorian style, this pub features tiled portraits of Scottish worthies and ornate chandeliers. Sink back into one of the comfortable leather chairs for a drink before making your way to the oyster bar and restaurant. 🍴

Elie: *Ship Inn*
The Harbour, Fife. ***Tel*** *01333 330 246*.
Quayside pub with nautical decor and attractive views. Summer barbecues. 🍴 ♬ ⛱ 🚸 🔥

Glasgow: *Horseshoe*
17–19 Drury St. ***Tel*** *0141 229 5711*.
Busy Victorian pub with a long bar and plenty of period features. Good value bar snacks. Karaoke in the evenings. 🍴 ♬ 🚸

Isle of Whithorn: *Steam Packet*
Isle of Whithorn, Dumfries & Galloway. ***Tel*** *01988 500 334*.
Superb setting on a lovely harbour. Pleasant eating areas and a good selection of real ales. Boat trips from the harbour. 🍴 ⛱ 🚸

THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Applecross: *Applecross Inn*
Shore St, Wester Ross, Highland.
Tel *01520 744262*.
Spectacularly located beyond Britain's highest mountain pass, this pub overlooks the Isle of Skye. Local seafood is served, and there is music once a week in season. 🍴 ♬ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Dundee: *Fishermans Tavern*
10–16 Fort St, Broughty Ferry, Tayside.
Tel *01382 775941*.
Choose between award-winning real ales and the extensive selection of malts, or savour a little of both. Good seafront and views of the Tay Rail Bridge. Rooms available. 🍴 🚸 ♬

Isle of Skye: *Tigh Osda Eilean*
Iarmain. Off A851, Isle Ornsay, Isle of Skye. ***Tel*** *01471 833332*.
Welcoming hotel bar. Lots of malts and good bar food. Gorgeous setting. 🍴 ♬ ⛱ 🚸 ♿

Loch Lomond: *Oak Tree Inn*
Balmaha, (E side). ***Tel*** *01360 870357*.
Traditional stone inn with a well-stocked bar, restaurant and B&B. Sit by the roaring fires in winter and snack on the tasty bar food that is served all day. 🍴 ♬ ⛱ 🚸

Portsoy: *The Shore Inn*
The Old Harbour, Banffshire.
Tel *01261 842831*.
A 300-year-old seafaring inn nestled in a picturesque harbour. Traditional cask ale and a real open fire. 🍴 ♬ 🚸 🔥

Ullapool: *Ferry Boat*
Shore St, Highland. ***Tel*** *01854 612366*.
Good whiskies, bar lunches and fine views over the harbour. Coal fires and big windows overlooking the loch. 🍴 ♬ 🚸

SHOPPING IN BRITAIN

While the West End of London (see pp148–51) is undeniably the most exciting place to shop in Britain, many of the regional towns and cities offer nearly as wide a range of goods. Moreover, regional shopping can be less stressful, less expensive, and remarkably varied, with craft studios, farm shops, street markets and factory outlets adding to the enjoyment of bargain-hunting. Britain is famous for its country clothing: wool, waxed cotton and tweed are all popular, along with classic prints such as Liberty or Laura Ashley and tartan. Other particularly British goods include antiques, floral soaps and scents, porcelain, glass and local crafts.

Vivienne
Westwood
MADE IN ENGLAND

Vivienne Westwood's designer label

Antiques stall at Bermondsey Market

SHOPPING HOURS

In general, shops in Britain open during the week from 9am or 10am, and close after 5pm or 6pm. Hours on Saturdays may be shorter. Many town centre shops open on Sundays. Some stores open late for one evening a week – Thursday in London's West End – while village shops may close at lunch-time, or for one afternoon each week. Market days vary from town to town.

HOW TO PAY

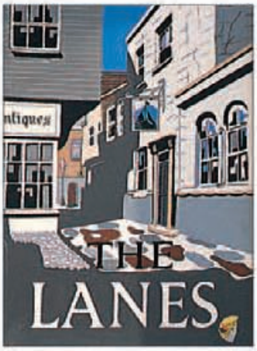
Most large shops all over the UK accept well-known credit cards such as Access and VISA. Charge cards such as American Express or Diners Club are acceptable in some places, but markets and some small shops do not take credit cards. Traveller's cheques can be used in larger stores, though exchange rates for non-sterling cheques may be poor. Take your passport with you for identification. Few places accept cheques drawn on foreign banks. Cash is still the most popular way to pay for small purchases.

RIGHTS AND REFUNDS

If something you buy is defective, you are entitled to a refund, provided you have kept your receipt as proof of purchase and return the goods in the same condition as when you bought them, preferably in the same packaging. This may not always apply to sale goods clearly marked as seconds, imperfect, or shop-soiled. Inspect these carefully before you buy. You do not have to accept a credit note in place of a cash refund.

ANNUAL SALES

Sales take place during January, and in June and July, when nearly every shop cuts prices to get rid of old stock. But you may find special offers at any time of the year. Some shops begin winter sales just before Christmas. Department stores and fashion houses have some excellent bargains for keen shoppers; one of the most prestigious sales is at Harrods *(see p97),* where queues form long before opening time.



Sign for the Lanes, Brighton *(see p175)*

VAT AND TAX-FREE SHOPPING

Value added tax (VAT) is charged on most goods and services sold in Britain – exceptions are food, books and children's clothes. It is usually included in the advertised price. Visitors from outside the European Union who stay less than three months may claim this tax back. Take your passport with you when you go shopping. You must complete a form in the shop when you buy goods and give a copy to the customs authorities when you leave the country. You may have to show your goods as proof of purchase. If you arrange to have goods shipped from the store, VAT should be deducted before you pay.

OUT-OF-TOWN SHOPPING CENTRES

These large complexes, built in the style of North American malls, are rapidly increasing around Britain. The advantages of car access and cheap parking are undeniable, and most centres are accessible by public transport too. The centres usually feature popular high street stores, with facilities such as cafés, crèches, restaurants and cinemas.

A traditional shop front in Stonegate, York *(see p404)*

DEPARTMENT STORES

A few big department stores, such as Harrods, are only found in London, but others have provincial branches. John Lewis, for example, has shops in 29 locations. It sells a huge range of fabrics, clothing and household items, combining quality service with good value. Marks & Spencer, with branches in most major towns and cities in Britain, is famed for its good-value clothing and pre-prepared food. Debenhams and British Home Stores (BhS) are other well-known general stores with inexpensive clothing and home furnishings. Habitat is a reputable supplier of modern furniture. The sizes of all these stores, and the range of stock they carry, differs from region to region.

Local Teesdale cheeses

CLOTHES SHOPS

Once again, London has the widest range, from *haute couture* to cheap and cheerful items ready-made. Shopping for clothing in the regions, however, can often be less tiring. Many towns popular with tourists – Oxford, Bath and York for instance – have independently owned clothes shops where you are likely to receive a more personal service. Or you could try one of the chain stores in any high street such as Laura Ashley or Next for smart, reasonably priced clothes, and Top Shop, Oasis and Miss Selfridge for younger and cheaper fashions.

SUPERMARKETS AND FOODSHOPS

Supermarkets are a good way to shop for food. The range and quality of items is usually excellent. Several large chains compete for market share, and as a result prices are generally lower than in smaller shops. Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons and Waitrose are some of the national names. The smaller town-centre shops such as bakeries, green-grocers or farm shops, may give you a more interesting choice of regional produce, and a more personal service.

SOUVENIR, GIFT AND MUSEUM SHOPS

Buying presents is a must for most travellers. Most reputable, large stores can arrange freight of high-value items. If you want to buy things you can carry back in your suitcase, the choice is wide. You can buy attractive, well-made, portable craft items all over the country, especially in areas tourists are likely to visit. For slightly more unusual presents, have a look in museum shops and the gifts available in National Trust *(see p29)* and English Heritage *(see p671)* properties.

THE MUSTARD SHOP
3
Colman's Mustard
The Mustard Shop *(see p201)*, Norwich

SECOND-HAND AND ANTIQUE SHOPS

Britain's long history means there are many interesting artifacts to be found. A visit to any of Britain's stately homes will reveal a passion for antiques. Most towns have an antique or bric-a-brac (miscellaneous second-hand items) shop or two. Look for auctions – tourist information centres *(see pp668–9)* can help you to locate them. You may like to visit a car boot sale or charity shop in the hope of picking up a bargain.

Book stall, Hay-on-Wye, Wales *(see p461)*

MARKETS

Large towns and cities usually have a central covered market which operates most week-days, selling everything from fresh produce to pots and pans. The information under each town entry in this guide lists market days. Many towns hold weekly markets in the main square, while Farmers' Markets have become increasingly popular and are a good place to source fresh, organic produce from British farms.

ENTERTAINMENT IN BRITAIN

London is without a doubt the entertainment capital of Britain *(see pp152–5)*, with a whole wealth of shows, films and concerts to choose from, but many regional theatres, opera houses and concert halls also have varied programmes. Edinburgh, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and Bristol in particular have a lot to offer and there are a number of summer arts festivals around the country such as those at Bath and Aldeburgh *(see pp62–3)*. Ticket prices vary but are usually cheaper outside the capital and when booked in advance.

Stone Brighton

Punch and Judy show

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

In London, check the listings magazines, such as *Time Out*, or the *Evening Standard*, London's evening newspaper. All of the high-brow newspapers *(see p679)* provide comprehensive arts reviews and listings of the cultural events and shows throughout the country. Local newspapers, libraries, or tourist offices *(see p669)* can supply details of regional events. Specialist magazines such as *NME* give up-to-date news of the pop music scene and are available from any newsagent.

THEATRES

Britain has an enduring theatrical tradition dating back to Shakespeare *(see pp324–5)* and beyond. All over the country, amateurs and professionals tread the boards in auditoriums, pubs, clubs and village halls. Production and performance standards are generally high, and British actors have an international reputation. London is the place to enjoy theatre at its most varied and glamorous *(see p152)*. The West End alone has more than 50 theatres *(see p153)* ranging from elaborate Edwardian, to Modernist-style buildings such as the National Theatre on the South Bank.

In Stratford-upon-Avon, the Royal Shakespeare Company presents a year- round programme of Shakespeare, as well as avant-garde and experimental plays. Bristol also has a long dramatic tradition, the Theatre Royal *(see p256)* is the oldest working theatre in Britain. Some of the best productions outside the capital can be found at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, the Royal Exchange in Manchester *(see p372)* and the Traverse in Edinburgh. Open-air theatre ranges from the free street entertainment found in many city centres, to student performances on the grounds of university colleges, or a production at Cornwall's clifftop amphitheatre, the Minack Theatre *(see p276)*. Every fourth year, York also stages a series of open-air medieval mystery plays called the York Cycle. Perhaps the liveliest theatrical tradition in Britain is the Edinburgh Festival *(see p509)*. Ticket availability varies from show to show. For a midweek matinee, you may be able to buy a ticket at the door, but for the more popular West End shows tickets may have to be booked weeks or months in advance. You can book through agencies and some travel agents, and most hotels will organize tickets for you. Booking fees are often charged. Beware of tickets offered by touts *(see p67)* – these may be counterfeit. There are no age restrictions in Britain's theatres.

Street entertainer

MUSIC

A diverse musical repertoire can be found in a variety of venues. Church choral music is a national tradition, and many churches and cathedrals host concerts. London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol and Bournemouth all have their own excellent orchestras. Major cities also have grand opera houses.

Rock, jazz, folk and country-and-western concerts are staged periodically in pubs and clubs. Wales has a strong musical tradition; northern England is known for its booming brass and silver bands; and Scotland has its famous bag-pipers *(see p480)*.

DRESS CIRCLE AND STALLS

The Buxton Opera House, the Midlands

The multiplex Warner West End cinema, Leicester Square, London

CINEMAS

The latest films can be seen in any large town. Check the local papers or the tourist office to find out what is on.

Cinemas are having a revival, with luxurious multi-screen cinemas taking over from the local, single-screen cinemas. In larger cities a more diverse range of films is often on offer including foreign-language productions. These tend to be shown at arts or repertory cinemas. Mainstream English-speaking films are usually shown by the big chains. Age limits apply to certain films. Young children are allowed to see any feature film which is graded with a U (universal) or PG (parental guidance) certificate. Cinema prices vary widely; some are cheaper at off-peak times, such as Mondays or afternoons. For new releases it is advisable to book in advance.

CLUBS

Most cities have some sort of club scene, though London has the most famous venues *(see p155)*. These may feature live music, discos, or DJ or dance performances. Some insist on dress codes or members only, and most have doormen, or "bouncers". Apart from the major cities, Brighton and Bristol have lively clubs.

DANCE

This covers a multitude of activities: everything from classical ballet and acid-house parties to traditional English Morris dancing or the Scottish Highland fling, which you may come upon in pubs and villages around the country.

Dance halls are rarer than they were, but ballroom dancing is alive and well. Other dance events you may find are ceilidhs (pronounced kay-lee), which is Celtic dancing and music; May Balls often held at universities (invitation only); dinner or tea dances and square dancing.

Birmingham is home to the Birmingham Royal Ballet and is the best place to see performances outside London. Avant-garde contemporary dance is also performed.

GAY

Most large communities will have some gay meeting places, mostly bars and clubs. You can find out about them from publications such as the free *Pink Paper* or *Gay Times* on sale in some newsagents, and in gay bars and clubs. London's gay life is centred around Soho *(see p80)* with its many European-style cafés and bars. Outside London, the most active gay scenes are in Manchester and Brighton. Gay Pride is the largest free outdoor festival in Europe.

Three revellers, Gay Pride Festival

CHILDREN

London offers children a positive goldmine of fun, excitement and adventure, though it can be expensive. From the traditional sights to something more unusual such as a discovery centre, London has a wide range of activities, many interactive, to interest children of all ages. The weekly magazine *Time Out* has details of children's events.

Outside London, activities for children range from nature trails to fun fairs. Your local tourist office or the local library will have information on things to do with children.

Pirate Ship, Chessington World of Adventures, Surrey

THEME PARKS

Theme parks in Britain are enjoyed by children of all ages. Alton Towers has conventional rides plus a motor museum. Chessington World of Adventures is a huge complex south of London. Based on a zoo, it includes nine themed areas, such as Calamity Canyon and Circus World. Legoland, the latest park, opened in March 1996. Thorpe Park is a large watery theme park full of model buildings and a peaceful pet farm.

Alton Towers

Alton, Staffordshire.
Tel *0870 20 40 60.*
www.altontowers.com

Chessington World of Adventures

Leatherhead Rd, Chessington, Surrey.
Tel *0870 9990045.*
www.chessington.co.uk

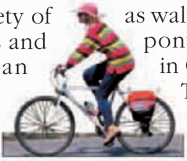
Legoland

Winkfield Rd, Windsor, Berkshire.
Tel *0871 222 2001.*
www.lego.co.uk

Thorpe Park

Staines Rd, Chertsey, Surrey.
Tel *08704 444466.*
www.thorpepark.com

SPECIALIST HOLIDAYS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



Cycling on the Gower Peninsular, Wales

Britain offers a wide variety of special interest holidays and courses, where you can learn a new sport or skill, practise an activity you enjoy, or simply have fun and meet people. If you prefer less structured activities, there are numerous options to choose from, such as walking in Britain's national parks, pony trekking in Wales, surfing in Cornwall or skiing in Scotland. There are also several spectator sports for those who like to watch rather than participate, including Premier League football, test match cricket and historic horse races.

Arvon Foundation writing week at Totleigh Barton in Devon

SPECIAL INTEREST HOLIDAYS

There are a number of special interest holidays and residential courses available in Great Britain. One advantage of this type of vacation is that you can attend a course alone, and yet have plenty of congenial company – most people are delighted to meet others who share their interests. Whatever your passion, you are likely to come across a holiday package that suits your needs.

Centres such as **Wye Valley Art Centre** in Gloucestershire and **West Dean College**, West Sussex, offer engaging, residential courses in arts and crafts. These can range from familiar activities such as drawing and painting to more esoteric subjects such as mosaic art and glass engraving. Those interested in writing can enroll at the **Arvon Foundation**, which organizes week-long courses in fiction, poetry, songwriting and TV drama at four rural retreats in Devon, Shropshire, West Yorkshire and Invernesshire. The **Ashburton Cookery School** in Devon and **Cookery at the Grange** in Somerset offer fun cookery courses with lots of hands-on involvement. Non-carnivores might try the Vegetarian Society's **Cordon Vert School** in Cheshire, which has innovative cookery courses catering to chefs at all levels – from complete beginners to talented amateurs.

Companies such as **Hidden Britain Tours**, **Inscape Tours** and the **Back-Roads Touring Company** provide themed holidays. History lovers can opt for a tour of King Arthur's Country or Shakespeare's England. Other tours designed for motor enthusiasts, garden lovers or fans of rock and roll are also available.

The prices of such holidays include expert guidance, transport, entry fees to attractions and accommodation, which could be anything from a farmhouse to a medieval castle.

WALKING

Walking is a popular activity in Britain and a network of long-distance footpaths and shorter routes criss-crosses the country *(see pp36–7)*. It is also an excellent way to experience the spectacular variety of the British landscape, either by yourself or with a group. An advantage is that most routes are away from major tourist sites and often pass through picturesque villages that are off the beaten track.

The **Ramblers' Association** is Britain's main walking body, and its website provides useful information on most routes and walking areas. It also publishes a range of books, including *Walk Britain*, which lists many good walks as well as suitable hotels, bed and breakfasts and hostels along the way.

There is no shortage of companies providing guided and self-guided holidays for walkers. The cost of these holiday packages should cover

Walking on Holyhead Mountain near South Stack Anglesey, Wales accommodation, transport and detailed route guides. **Ramblers' Countrywide Holidays** offers guided group walks through some of the country's most splendid landscapes. **Sherpa Expeditions** has a variety of self-led walks. Pick a challenging 15-day coast-to-coast walk, or a more leisurely ramble along South Downs Way. Individual companies will advise you on the level of fitness required and the type of clothing and footwear that will be needed.

If you are planning to walk on your own, especially in remote areas, remember that it is essential to not only be well equipped, but to also leave details of your route with someone.

Mountain biking in Yorkshire

CYCLING

The country's tranquil lanes, bridleways and designated tracks are perfect for cyclists who want to explore the back roads of Britain. Depending on your level of fitness, you may opt for demanding routes through mountainous areas such as the magnificent West Highland Way in Scotland *(see p494)*. Those who would like to take it easy can enjoy a relaxed tour along Devon's lanes and take the opportunity to stop off for a sinfully rich cream tea.

Country Lanes offers a good variety of guided holidays in small groups around the west of England. The price includes an experienced leader, high quality bicycle equipment, accommodation, meals and entry to attractions along the way. **Compass Holidays** and **Wheely Wonderful Cycling** concentrate on self-led tours, with routes throughout the country. They also provide bicycles, accommodation, detailed route maps, (including details of pubs, cafés and places of interest along the way) and appropriate luggage transport. Such self-guided bicycling holidays are ideal for families or groups of friends.

If you wish to organize your own cycling holiday, you may contact the **Cyclists' Touring Club**, which is Britain's main recreational cycling body, and **Sustrans**, the organization that formed the National Cycle Network. Both can provide a wealth of information about cycling in the country, including advice on matters such as bringing a bike into Britain, taking your bike on the train and the rules of the road. *Cycling in the UK*, the official guide book for the National Cycle Network, has route details and maps for many of the best rides, and also offers tips on how to hire a bike and what to do along the way.

HORSE RIDING AND PONY TREKKING

There are good riding centres in most parts of Britain, but certain areas are especially suitable for this invigorating activity. The best of these locations include the New Forest *(see p168),* the South Downs *(see p181),* the Yorkshire Dales National Park *(see pp384–6)* and the Brecon Beacons on the border between Wales and England *(see pp468–9)*.

Pony trekking holidays are also becoming very popular, and generally include basic training, a guide, meals and accommodation. These vacations are perfect for novice riders and children since the ponies are very well-trained and rarely proceed above a canter. The **British Horse Society** has all the information on where to ride as well as a list of approved riding schools that offer training. You can also consult the **Equine Tourism** website for information on riding centres and horse-riding holidays. National park information offices can also provide details of the many equestrian centres that organize riding holidays in or around national parks.

Horse riding on a country bridleway *(see p37)*

GOLF

Over a quarter of Britain's 2000-odd golf clubs are in Scotland, which is unsurprising given that the ancient game was invented here. The first formal club was established in Edinburgh in 1744.

Today, the best known clubs are Carnoustie and St Andrews in Scotland, Royal St George's in England and Celtic Manor in Wales. These high-profile clubs only admit players above a certain handicap. Most other clubs, however, are more relaxed and welcome visitors.

Green fees vary greatly, as do the facilities offered by various clubs. Some clubs may ask to see a valid handicap certificate before they allow a player on the course. Failing that, a letter of introduction from a home club may be sufficient.

Specialist operators such as **Golf Vacations UK** and **Great Golf Holidays** can smooth the way to the first hole considerably by booking golf packages. They will organize travel and accommodation, reserve tee times and pay the green fees. They will also help you get temporary membership of a club if required.

If you wish to go it alone, the **Golf Club of Great Britain** can provide information on where to play. They also have an affiliated website for nonresidents of the UK.

SURFING

The best areas for surfing are in the West Country and South Wales. Tuition is available at many resorts, and equipment can be hired.

The Cornwall-based **British Surfing Association** runs its own surf school with professional coaching catering to a range of abilities, from novices to advanced competition surfers. Other companies that offer good surfing courses include **Surf South West** in Devon and the **Welsh Surfing Federation Surf School** in South Wales.

Sailing in Cardigan Bay, Welsh coast

BOATING AND SAILING

The British are extremely enthusiastic about boating and sailing. The network of rivers, lakes and canals ensures an abundance of boating sites. Many excellent choices are available – the Isle of Wight and the south coast are full of pleasure crafts. Several inland areas such as the Lake District *(see pp354–69)* are among the most widely favoured. Canal cruising is also very popular *(see p689)* and the Norfolk Broads *(see p198)* provide one of the best inland boating experiences. Check with the **Broads Authority** for details.

Many sailing courses are available. The **Royal Yachting Association** can provide lists of approved courses and training centres around Britain. One of the most trusted is Dorset's **Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy**, which has a range of courses to suit all ages and levels of ability. The **Falmouth School of Sailing** in Cornwall is a privately owned sailing and powerboat school, which conducts lessons in the enclosed, safe waters of the Fal Estuary. Courses include basic "taster sessions", one-to-one tuition for adults and children, as well as group lessons.

SKIING

Facilities for skiing are limited in the UK, especially since the weather is rather unreliable. However, skiing enthusiasts can head for Scotland, which has a range of challenging slopes. **Ski Scotland**, the official ski site of the Scottish Tourist Board, has information about ski packages, accommodation, up-to-date weather conditions and details of the main ski areas, including the Cairngorms and the Nevis Range. **Snowsport Scotland**, the governing body for all Scottish snowsports, provides information on other snow-based activities such as Nordic skiing and snowboarding.

FISHING

Fishing, both on the sea and in rivers, is one of Britain's most popular participation sports. Regulations, however, are strict and can be rather complicated. It is advisable to check for details about rod licences, close seasons and other restrictions at tourist offices or tackle shops, or with the **Angling Trust** in Leominster.

The best game fishing (trout and salmon) is in the West Country, the Northeast, Wales and Scotland. Also, there are several websites with links to specialist operators who arrange fishing holidays.

Solitary sea fisherman, England's southeast coast

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Football (soccer) is a passion for a large section of the population. The English Premier League is run by the **Football Association** and is home to some of the world's top clubs, including **Manchester United** *(see p375),* **Arsenal FC** and **Chelsea FC**. The domestic football season runs from August to May. Tickets for Premier League games can be expensive and difficult to obtain, but it is worth attempting to get hold of returned or unsold tickets directly from the clubs.

The main tennis event of the year is Wimbledon, which is held at the **All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC)** in London. This two-week event takes place in the last week of June and the first week of July. The tournament sparks off a period of tennis fever in England, especially when British players such as Andy Murray progress in the competition. Most tickets for Centre Court are allocated by a public ballot. Check the official website of the AELTC for details on how to procure tickets. Around 6,000 tickets are available on the day of play (payment by cash only), except for the final four days of the tournament.

Rugby Football is administered by the **Rugby Football Union** and also has a good following. Games are played in cities such as Edinburgh, London and Cardiff.

Cricket, the English national game, is played from April to September. Tickets for country matches are relatively cheap. International test matches are played on historic grounds such as **Surrey County Cricket Club's** ground at the Oval in London, and the **Yorkshire County Cricket Club** situated at Headingley in Leeds.

Both steeplechasing and flat-racing are very popular, and betting is big business. The Grand National is the best-known steeplechase and runs at **Aintree Racecourse** in early April. The main flat-race meeting is **Royal Ascot**, which takes place in Berkshire towards the end of June.

DIRECTORY

SPECIAL INTEREST HOLIDAYS

Arvon Foundation
42A Buckingham Palace Rd, London SW1. ***Tel*** *020 7324 2554*. **www**.arvonfoundation.org

Ashburton Cookery School
Hare's Lane Cottage, 76 E St, Ashburton TQ13. ***Tel*** *01364 652784*. **www**.ashburtoncookeryschool.co.uk

Back-Roads Touring Company
14A New Broadway, London W5. ***Tel*** *020 8987 0990*.

Cookery at the Grange
The Grange, Whatley, Frome, Somerset BA11. ***Tel*** *01373 836579*.

Cordon Vert School
The Vegetarian Society, Parkdale, Dunham Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14. ***Tel*** *0161 9252014*.

Hidden Britain Tours
28 Chequers Rd, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG2 7PU. ***Tel*** *01256 814222*.

Inscape Tours
35 Whitehall, London SW1A 2BX. ***Tel*** *020 7839 3988*.

West Dean College
West Dean, Chichester, W Sussex PO18. ***Tel*** *01243 811301*.

Wye Valley Art Centre
The Coach Hse, Mork, St Briavel's, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15. ***Tel*** *01594 530214*.

WALKING

Ramblers' Association
2nd Floor, Camelford Hse, 87–90 Albert Embankment, London SE1. ***Tel*** *020 7339 8500*. **www**.ramblers.org.uk

Ramblers' Countrywide Holidays
Box 43, Welwyn Garden City AL8. ***Tel*** *01707 386800*.

Sherpa Expeditions
131A Heston Rd, Hounslow TW5. ***Tel*** *020 8577 2717*.

CYCLING

Compass Holidays
Cheltenham Spa Railway Station, Queens Rd, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51. ***Tel*** *01242 250642*.

Country Lanes
Brokenhurst New Forest. ***Tel*** *01590 622627*.

Cyclists' Touring Club
69 Meadrow, Godalming, Surrey GU7. ***Tel*** *0844 736 8450*.

Sustrans
National Cycle Network Centre, 2 Cathedral Sq, College Green, Bristol BS1. ***Tel*** *0845 1130065*.

Wheely Wonderful Cycling
Petchfield Farm, Elton, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8. ***Tel*** *01568 770755*.

HORSE RIDING AND PONY TREKKING

British Horse Society
Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8. ***Tel*** *0844 848 1666*. **www**.bhs.org.uk

Equine Tourism
Holt Ball, Luccombe, Somerset TA24. ***Tel*** *01643 862785*. **www**.equinetourism.co.uk

GOLF

Golf Club of Great Britain
3 Sage Yard, Douglas Rd, Surbiton, Surrey KT6. ***Tel*** *020 8390 3113*. **www**.golfclubgb.co.uk

Golf Vacations UK
Tel *01228 527136*. **www**.golfvacationsuk.com

Great Golf Holidays
20 Mill Lane, Gosmore, Herts SG4. ***Tel*** *01462 437611*.

SURFING

British Surfing Association
The International Surfing Centre, Fistral Beach, Newquay, Cornwall TR7. ***Tel*** *01637 876474*.

Surf South West
PO Box 39, Croyde, N Devon EX33. ***Tel*** *01271 890400*.

Welsh Surfing Federation Surf School
The Barn, The Croft, Llangennith, Swansea SA3. ***Tel*** *01792 386426*.

BOATING AND SAILING

Broads Authority
18 Colegate, Norwich, Norfolk NR3. ***Tel*** *01603 610734*.

Falmouth School of Sailing
Grove Place, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11. ***Tel*** *01326 211311*.

Royal Yachting Association
RYA Hse, Ensign Way, Southampton, Hampshire SO31. ***Tel*** *0845 345 0400*.

Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy
Osprey Quay, Dorset DT5. ***Tel*** *01305 866000*.

SKIING

Ski Scotland
www.ski.visitscotland.com

Snowsport Scotland
Caledonian House, South Gyle, Edinburgh EH12. ***Tel*** *0131 625 4405*.

FISHING

Angling Trust
Eastwood House, 6 Rainbow St, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 8DQ. ***Tel*** *0844 770 0616*.

Fishing Net
www.fishingnet.com

Fishing UK
www.fishing.co.uk

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Aintree Racecourse
Ormskirk Rd, Aintree, Liverpool L9. ***Tel*** *0151 523 2600*.

All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC)
Church Rd, Wimbledon, London SW19. ***Tel*** *020 8944 1066*. **www**.wimbledon.org

Arsenal FC
Arsenal Stadium, Avenell Rd, Highbury, London N5. ***Tel*** *020 7704 4040*.

Chelsea FC
Stamford Bridge, Fulham Rd, London SW6. ***Tel*** *0871 984 1955*.

Football Association
16 Lancaster Gate, London W2. ***Tel*** *0844 980 0699*.

Manchester United
Sir Matt Busby Way, Old Trafford, Manchester M16. ***Tel*** *0161 868 8000*.

Royal Ascot
Ascot Racecourse, Ascot, Berkshire SL5. ***Tel*** *0870 727 1234*.

Rugby Football Union
Rugby Rd, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1. ***Tel*** *0871 222 2120*.

Surrey County Cricket Club
The Brit Oval, Kennington, London SE11. ***Tel*** *0871 246 1100*.

Yorkshire County Cricket Club
Headingley Carnegie Cricket Ground, Leeds LS6. ***Tel*** *0871 971 1222*.

SH21

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

A mounted sentry, London

Every year, millions of people from all over the world seek out what the British often take for granted: the country's ancient history, colourful pageantry, spectacularly varied countryside and wonderful coastline. The range of facilities on offer to visitors in Britain has improved considerably over the past few years. Be aware that prices vary within Britain, and regional differences can be very noticeable. London, not surprisingly, is the most expensive city, and the knock-on effect extends to most of southern England, Britain's most affluent region. Food, accommodation, entertainment, transport and consumer items in shops are generally cheaper in other parts of the country. It is always advisable to plan your trip before you travel and to enjoy Britain fully, it is important to be aware of the basics of British life: when to visit, what to take, how to get around, where to find information and what to do if things go wrong.

Weymouth Beach, Dorset, on a busy public holiday weekend

WHEN TO GO

Britain's temperate climate does not produce many temperature extremes *(see p68)*. However, weather patterns shift constantly, and the climate can vary widely in places only a short distance apart. Since it is impossible to predict rain or shine reliably in any season, be sure to pack a mix of warm and cool clothes and an umbrella, irrespective of when you plan to visit. Always get an up-to-date weather forecast before you set off on foot to remote mountain areas or moorland. Walkers can be surprised by the weather, and the Mountain Rescue services are often called out due to unexpectedly severe conditions. Weather reports can be found on television and radio, as well as in newspapers. They can also be provided by phone services *(see p678)*.

Britain's towns and cities are all-year destinations, but many attractions are open only between Easter and October. The main family holiday months, July and August, and public holidays *(see p65)* are always busy, and some hotels are full around Christmas. Spring and autumn offer a good compromise between reasonably good weather and a relative lack of crowds.

VISAS AND PASSPORTS

A valid passport is required to enter Britain. Visitors from the European Union (EU), the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia do not need visas to enter the country. Visit www.ukvisas.gov.uk to check your visa status. Visas can be arranged online at www.fco.gov.uk. When you arrive at any British air- or seaport, you will find separate queues at immigration control – one set for EU nationals, and another for everyone else.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE
RESCUE POST

A sign for the Mountain Rescue

Residents of the EU are allowed to work in Britain with no permit, while Commonwealth citizens under the age of 27 may work part time for up to two years. North American students can get a Blue Card through their university. This enables them to work for up to six months, but it must be obtained before arrival in Britain. BUNAC *(see p672)* is a student club that organizes exchange schemes for students to work abroad.

CUSTOMS INFORMATION

Britain is part of the European Union, so anyone who arrives here from a member country can pass through a blue channel. However, random checks are still being made to detect entry of prohibited goods, particularly drugs, indecent material and weapons. Never, under any circumstances, carry luggage or parcels through customs for someone else. For most EU members there is no limit to the amount of excise goods (such as tobacco or alcohol) that can be brought into Britain, provided these are for your own use. This legislation does not apply to some new member states; check if you are unsure.

Travellers entering from outside the EU have to pass through customs channels. Go through the green channel if you have nothing to declare over the customs allowances, and use the red channel if you have goods to declare. If you are unsure of importation restrictions, go through the red channel. On departure, non-EU residents can apply for a VAT refund on goods bought in Britain *(see p658)*.

Britain is free of rabies, and no live animals may be imported without a permit. Any animals found will be impounded and may be destroyed.

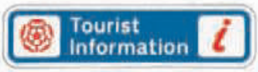
◁ Fishing boats in Scarborough port, North Yorkshire

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist information is available in many towns and public places, including airports and main rail and coach stations, and some places of historical interest. Look out for the tourist information symbol, which can indicate anything from a large and busy central tourist bureau to a simple kiosk or even simply an information board in a parking area.

Tourist offices will be able to help you on almost anything in their area, including places of interest and guided walks. Both the regional and national tourist boards produce comprehensive lists of local attractions and registered accommodation options. A range of leaflets is generally available for free at tourist offices, but a charge may be made for more detailed maps and booklets. For route planning, consider the excellent large-format motoring atlases produced by both the RAC and the AA *(see p685)*. For rural exploration, Ordnance Survey maps are ideal (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk).

It's wise to book accommodation well in advance of your visit. **VisitBritain** is a good resource for this. Out of season, you should have few problems booking transport, restaurants or even theatre performances at short notice, but in the high season, if you have set your heart on a luxury hotel, popular West End show or specific tour, you should try to book in advance. Contact VisitBritain in your country, or see a travel agent for advice and general information.



The most common English tourist information sign

OPENING HOURS

Outside of London and other main cities, many businesses and shops still close on Sundays, even though trading is legal. During the week, opening hours are generally from 9 or 10am until 5 or 5:30pm. Shop hours may include a late opening one evening a week, usually Thursday. In big city centres, particularly London, shops are generally open longer – often until 7pm and seven days a week.

Museums in London tend to operate late opening hours one day a week, while those outside the capital may be less flexible, sometimes closing in the morning or for one day a week, often on Mondays.

On public holidays, also known as bank holidays in Britain, banks, offices and some shops, restaurants and attractions often close, and transport networks run a limited service.

DIRECTORY

CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

HM Customs & Excise
Dorset House,
27–45 Stamford St,
London SE1 9PY.
Tel *020 7865 3000*
or 0845 010 9000
(advice line).

Home Office
Border & Immigration
Agency, Lunar House,
40 Wellesley Rd,
Croydon, Surrey.
Tel *0870 606 7766.*
www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk

For information on import or export restrictions, visit **www**.hmrc.gov.uk

EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES

Australian High Commission
Australia House,
Strand, London WC2.
Tel *020 7379 4334.*
www.uk.embassy.gov.au

Canadian High Commission
Canada House, Trafalgar
Square, London SW1.
Tel *020 7258 6600.*
www.canada.gc.ca

New Zealand High Commission
New Zealand House,
80 Haymarket,
London SW1.
Tel *020 7930 8422.*
www.nzembassy.com

United States Embassy
24 Grosvenor Sq,
London W1.
Tel *020 7499 9000.*
www.usembassy.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST INFORMATION

VisitBritain Australia
Tel *02 9021 4400*
or 1300 85 8589.
www.visitbritain.com

VisitBritain Canada
Tel *1 888 847 4885*
or 1 905 405 1720.
www.visitbritain.com

VisitBritain Ireland
www.enjoyengland.ie

VisitBritain USA
Tel *1 800 462 2748*
or 1 212 986 2266.
www.visitbritain.com

REGIONAL TOURIST BOARDS

Britain
Thames Tower, Blacks Rd,
London W6 9EL.
Tel *020 8846 9000.*
www.visitbritain.com

Cumbria
Tel *01539 822222.*
www.golakes.co.uk

East of England
Tel *01284 727470.*
www.visiteastofengland.com

East Midlands
Tel *01159 888546.*
www.discovereastmidlands.com

London
Tel *0870 156 6366.*
www.visitlondon.com

Northumbria
Tel *01670 794520.*
www.visitnortheastengland.com

Northwest
Tel *01942 821222.*
www.visitnorthwest.com

Scotland
Tel *0131 472 2222.*
www.visitscotland.com

Southeast
Tel *023 8062 5400.*
www.visitsoutheastengland.com

South West
Tel *01392 360050.*
www.swtourism.org.uk

Wales
Tel *0870 830 0306.*
www.visitwales.co.uk

Yorkshire and the Humber Region
www.yorkshire.com

A Cotswolds church, one of hundreds of parish churches open to the public

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Although some old-style supervised public toilets still exist, these have been largely replaced by the modern, free-standing, coin-operated “superloos”. Main railway stations usually have toilet facilities for which there is a small charge. Young children should never use these toilets on their own.

TIPPING, ETIQUETTE AND SMOKING

In Britain it is the norm to tip taxi drivers and waiting staff in restaurants. Between 10 and 15 per cent is standard. Many restaurants automatically add a service charge to the bill, so do check before leaving a tip. It is not customary to leave a tip when buying a drink in a pub or bar.

Smoking is now forbidden in all of Britain’s public indoor spaces, including pubs, restaurants, nightclubs, transport systems, taxis, theatres and cinemas. For advice on smoking-related issues, contact **ASH** (Action on Smoking and Health). It is illegal to buy cigarettes if you are under the age of 18.

Age restrictions also apply in pubs and bars, where you must be over 18 to be served. Some bars are for over-21s only, and patrons may be asked for identification before being served.

ADMISSION PRICES

Admission fees for museums and sights vary widely, from a nominal 50p to in excess of £10 for the more popular attractions. Many of the major national museums are free, although donations are encouraged. The same is true of a few local authority museums and art galleries. Some sights are in private hands, run either as a commercial venture or on a charitable basis. Stately homes open to the public may still belong to the gentry who have lived there for centuries; a charge is usually made to offset the enormous costs of upkeep. Many of these houses, such as Woburn Abbey *(see p230)*, have added safari parks or garden centres to attract larger numbers of visitors.

GREAT BRITISH HERITAGE PASS
7
DAY
01 234567 8

Great British Heritage Pass

Britain’s thousands of small parish churches are among the country’s greatest architectural treasures. None of these churches charges an entrance fee, although you may find that some are locked because of vandalism. Increasingly, many of the great cathedrals expect a donation from visitors.

Reductions are often available for groups, senior citizens, children and students. Proof of eligibility will be required when purchasing a ticket. Visitors from overseas may buy a Great British Heritage Pass, which gives access to more than 600 sights including Stonehenge *(see pp262–3)* and Warwick Castle *(see pp322–3)*. The pass is also available as a Family Pass. Families of two adults and up to three children, aged 5–15, can benefit. The pass can be bought from VisitBritain offices abroad. In the UK, it is sold at the Britain Visitor Centre in Lower Regent Street in London, as well as at some ports of entry and tourist information centres across Britain *(see p669)*.

TRAVELLERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The facilities on offer for disabled visitors to Britain are steadily improving. Recently designed or newly renovated buildings and public spaces now offer lifts and ramps for wheelchair access (this information is given in the headings for each entry in this guide); specially designed toilets; grab rails; and, for the hearing-impaired, earphones. Buses are also becoming increasingly accessible, and, if given advance notice, train, ferry or bus staff will help any disabled passengers. Ask a travel agent about the Disabled Persons Railcard, which entitles you to discounted rail fares.

Many banks, theatres and museums now provide aids for the visually or hearing-impaired. Specialist tour operators, such as **Tourism for All**, cater for physically handicapped visitors.

If renting a car, Hertz *(see p685)* offers hand-controlled vehicles for hire at no extra cost. In order to use any of the disabled parking spaces, you need to display a special badge in your car.

For more general information on facilities for disabled travellers, contact **RADAR**.

This association also publishes two books that carry a wealth of information for disabled holiday-makers: *Holidays in Britain and Ireland* and *There and Back*. The latter is a comprehensive guide to non-local travel. It pays particular attention to the links between the different methods of transport, whether by air, rail, road or sea.

TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

Britain offers a wealth of activities and fun days out for those travelling with children. The VisitBritain website *(see p669)* is a great resource for offering ideas, tips and useful information for the family.

Peak holiday times – Easter, July and August – and half-term school holidays have most to offer in terms of entertainment for children. There is always something child-friendly going on at Christmas, too, like pantomimes and winter skating rinks. It is worth checking the websites of individual museums and art galleries, because these often host child-centred events at key times of year. A couple of useful websites for information on things to do with children are www.kidslovelondon.com and www.whatson4kids.com.

Discounts for children or family tickets are available for travel, theatre shows and other forms of entertainment.

The Natural History Museum, a great day out for the whole family

Choose a hotel that welcomes children, or opt for self-catering quarters with hard-wearing furnishings and lots of room in which to run around. Many hotels now provide baby-sitting or baby-listening services, and may offer reductions or even free accommodation for very young children *(see pp552–99)*.

Restaurants are also becoming more welcoming of tiny patrons, and many provide high chairs and special menus *(see pp600–51)*. Italian eateries are often the most friendly and informal, but even the traditional British pub, once resolutely child-free, has relented, with beer gardens and family rooms. Under-18s are not permitted near the bars, nor are they allowed to buy or consume alcohol. The over-16s however, are permitted to consume wine, beer or cider with a table meal provided the alcohol is bought by an adult.

Baby-changing facilities are often provided at larger shops, department stores and shopping centres, as well as at most large museums and art galleries. For those who don't want to travel with all the paraphernalia necessary for their offspring (baby food, nappies, sunscreen), **Tinytotsaway** provides a great service. This web-based company will deliver everything you need for your trip directly to your accommodation.

The privately owned, admission-charging Hever Castle *(see p189)*

DIRECTORY

HELPLINE

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)
Tel *020 7739 5902.*
www.ash.org.uk

TRAVELLERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

RADAR
Tel *020 7250 3222.*
www.radar.org.uk

Tourism for All
Tel *08451 249971.*
www.tourismforall.org.uk

TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

Tinytotsaway
Tel *01275 424421*
www.tinytotsaway.com

International Student Identity Card

STUDENT TRAVELLERS

Full-time students in possession of a valid International Student Identity Card (ISIC) are often entitled to discounts on things such as travel, entrance fees and sports facilities. North American students can also get medical cover, although it may be very basic *(see p675)*. ISICs can be purchased from **STA Travel**, the **National Union of Students** or online. Proof of student status is required.

A **Hostelling International** card enables you to stay in Britain's youth hostels. Outside of term time, inexpensive accommodation is also available at many of the university halls of residence, such as the **University of London**. This is a good way of staying in city centres on a tight budget. Those who are exploring the wilder regions of Britain can find affordable sleeping quarters in camping barns (dormitory-style bunkhouses). Though spartan, they cost very little. The YHA website (www.yha.org.uk) has a full list of camping barns across Britain.

US and Canadian students interested in working in Britain should contact **BUNAC**.

ENGLISH HERITAGE AND THE NATIONAL TRUST

Many of Britain's historic buildings, parks and gardens, not to mention vast tracts of countryside and coastline, are cared for by associations such as **English Heritage** (EH), the **National Trust** (NT) or the **National Trust for Scotland** (NTS). Entrance fees for these sights are often quite steep, so if you wish to visit several of them during your stay, it may be worth taking out an annual membership, which allows free access to any of these properties for a calendar year. Be aware that many may be closed in winter.

Many of the National Trust's properties are "listed", meaning that they are recognized as having special architectural or historical interest and are therefore protected from alterations and demolition. This guide identifies EH, NT and NTS properties at the beginning of each entry.

ENGLISH HERITAGE

The sign and symbol of English Heritage

ELECTRICITY

The voltage in Britain is 220/240 AC, 50 Hz. Electrical plugs have three rectangular pins and take fuses of 3, 5 and 13 amps. Visitors from abroad will need an adaptor for appliances that have been brought from home, such as portable computers, hairdryers and phone chargers. Most hotels will have two-pronged European-style sockets for shavers only.

Lorna Doone Cottage and National Trust Information Centre, Somerset

OLD ROYAL OBSERVATORY

Clock at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich *(see p125)*

TIME

During the winter months, Britain is on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), which is five hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and 10 hours behind Sydney. From about the middle of March until October, the clocks go forward one hour to British Summer Time (BST).

To check the correct time, contact the Speaking Clock service by dialling 123.

CONVERSION CHART

Britain is officially metric, in line with the rest of Europe. However, imperial measures are still in use, especially for road distances, which are measured in miles. Imperial pints and gallons are 20 per cent larger than US measures.

Imperial to metric
1 inch = 2.5 centimetres
1 foot = 30 centimetres
1 mile = 1.6 kilometres
1 ounce = 28 grams
1 pound = 454 grams
1 pint = 0.6 litres
1 gallon = 4.6 litres

Metric to imperial
1 millimetre = 0.04 inch
1 centimetre = 0.4 inch
1 metre = 3 feet 3 inches
1 kilometre = 0.6 mile
1 gram = 0.04 ounce
1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Like many European countries, Britain is aware of the need to be greener and is making a concerted effort to reduce emissions and waste. While most rubbish is still sent to landfill sites, there are recycling campaigns in every town and city, and the amounts of household waste are gradually diminishing.

Many holiday properties across the country publish their green policies, showing how they minimize energy use. Some lodgings even offer discounts to guests arriving by public transport or on foot, particularly in heavily congested areas such as national parks. These themselves vary in the environmental schemes they operate, but all are committed to encouraging green tourism.

The **Green Tourism Business Scheme** is a national scheme that has vetted 1,500 places to stay in England, Scotland and Wales, from small B&Bs to luxury five-star hotels, as well as about 500 visitor attractions. The scheme requires owners to provide details on more than 145 criteria, ranging from energy and waste control to use of local produce and transport. A qualified environmental auditor visits each property and allocates an award based on the standards met. There are also more than 20 regional accommodation certification schemes across Britain, including **Green Leaf** (New Forest) and **Green Island** (Isle of Wight).

Colourful stalls at a farmers' market

Another green accommodation solution is the great outdoors. Campsites are located across Britain, and pitches are available from as little as £4.50 per night. Note, however, that sites are often fairly far from the main towns and may not be served by public transport.

Organic and fair-trade products can be bought at most supermarkets. Many towns and cities hold a weekly food market, and farmers' markets are also on the increase. These stock locally sourced produce, and shopping here is a great way to give back to the local economy. Visit www.farmersmarkets.net. to find your nearest farmers' market. When in rural areas, look out for farm shops that stock fresh products from local farms. "Slow Food" fairs are held occasionally across the country. These tend to last several days and are a great opportunity for small vendors to set up stalls and for visitors to sample food from sustainable sources.

DIRECTORY

STUDENT TRAVELLERS

BUNAC
16 Bowling Green Lane,
London EC1R 0QH.
Tel *020 7251 3472.*
www.bunac.org

Hostelling International
Tel *01707 324170.*
www.hihostels.com

National Union of Students
Tel *0871 221 8221.*
www.nus.org.uk

STA Travel
Priory House,
6 Wrights Lane,
London W8 6TA.
Tel *0871 230 8558.*
www.statravel.co.uk

University of London
Malet St,
London WC1.
Tel *020 7862 8000.*
www.housing.lon.ac.uk

HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS

English Heritage
Tel *0870 333 1181.*
www.english-heritage.org.uk

National Trust
Tel *0844 800 1895.*
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

National Trust for Scotland
28 Charlotte Sq,
Edinburgh EH2 4ET.
Tel *0844 493 2100.*
www.nts.org.uk

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Baptist
London Baptist Assn,
235 Shaftesbury Ave,
London WC2. ***Tel*** *020 7692 5592.* **www**.londonbaptist.org.uk

Buddhist
Buddhist Society,
58 Eccleston Sq, London
SW1. ***Tel*** *020 7834 5858.*
www.thebuddhistsociety.org

Church of England
Great Smith St, London
SW1. ***Tel*** *020 7898 1000.*
www.cofe.anglican.org

Evangelical Alliance
Whitefield House,
186 Kennington Park Rd,
London SE11.
Tel *020 7207 2100.*
www.eauk.org

Jewish
Liberal Jewish Synagogue,
28 St John's Wood Rd,
London NW8. ***Tel*** *020 7286 5181.* **www**.ljs.org

Muslim
Islamic Cultural Centre,
146 Park Rd, London
NW8. ***Tel*** *020 7725 2213.* **www**.iccuk.org

Quakers
Friends House, 173–177
Euston Rd, London NW1.
Tel *020 7663 1000.*
www.quaker.org.uk

Roman Catholic
Westminster Cathedral,
Victoria St, London SW1.
Tel *020 7798 9055.*
www.westminstercathedral.org.uk

United Synagogue (Orthodox)
Adler House,
735 High Rd, North
Finchley, London N12.
Tel *020 8343 8989.*
www.theus.org.uk

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Green Business
www.green-business.co.uk

Green Island Tourism
www.greenislandtourism.org

Green Leaf Tourist Scheme
www.thegreenforest.org

Green Tourism Business Scheme
www.green-business.co.uk

Tourism Concern
www.tourismconcern.org.uk

Personal Security and Health

Britain is a densely populated country that, like any other, has its share of social problems. However, it is very unlikely that you will come across any violence. If you do encounter difficulties, do not hesitate to contact the police for help. Britain's National Health Service can be relied upon for both emergency and routine treatment. Note that you may have to pay if your country has no reciprocal arrangement with Britain.

POLICE

The sight of a traditional bobby walking the streets is now less common than that of the police patrol car, but the old-fashioned police constable does still exist, particularly in rural areas and crowded city centres.

Unlike in many other countries, the police force in Britain does not carry guns, although 10 per cent of the London Metropolitan police are armed.

If you are lost, ask a policeman or woman – they are courteous, approachable and helpful. Traffic wardens may also be able to help you with directions. If you have been the victim of a robbery or an assault, contact the police by dialling 999. All Britain's major cities have community police support officers who patrol the city streets working alongside the police. They are able to deal with anti-social behaviour, can offer advice on crime prevention and can also help you with directions and information.

LOST AND STOLEN PROPERTY

If you lose anything or have anything stolen, report it at the nearest police station as soon as you are able. A written report from the local police is required to make a claim on your insurance for any theft. All of the main bus and rail stations have lost-property offices.

CRIME

Britain is not a dangerous place for visitors, and it is most unlikely that your stay will be blighted by crime. Due to terrorist threats, there are occasional security alerts, especially on the Underground, but these are mainly false alarms often due to people accidentally leaving a bag or parcel unattended. Always co-operate with the authorities if your bag has to be searched or if you are asked to evacuate a building.

Police car

Ambulance

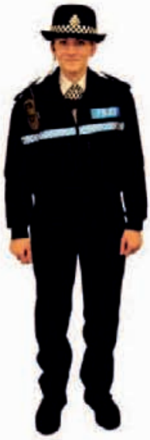
Fire engine

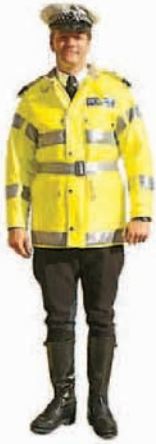
WHAT TO BE AWARE OF

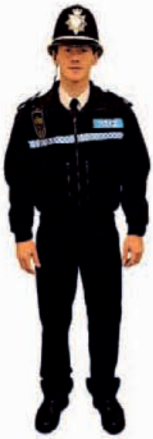
Make sure that your possessions are adequately insured before you arrive in Britain, and never leave them unattended in public places. Keep your valuables concealed (particularly mobile phones), especially in crowded places. Pickpockets love markets, busy shops and all modes of transport during rush hour. Keep handbags on your lap, never on the floor or on the back of your chair. It is advisable not to carry too much cash or jewellery with you. Take what you need for the day, and leave the rest in your hotel safe instead. It is also advisable not to leave any valuables on display in your hotel room.

At night, try to avoid deserted and poorly lit places such as back streets and car parks.

Begging is an increasingly common sight in many British cities, and foreign visitors are frequent targets for hard-luck stories. Requests for money are usually polite, but any abuse should be reported to the police immediately.


Female police constable


Traffic police officer


Male police constable

WOMEN TRAVELLERS

It is not unusual in Britain for women to travel unaccompanied or to visit a bar or restaurant with a group of female friends. However, caution is advisable in deserted places, especially after dark. Always summon a licensed taxi *(see pp690–91)* and do not walk through a quiet area at night, especially if you are not familiar with the district. Try to avoid using train carriages where there is just one other passenger or a group of young men.

It is illegal to carry any offensive weapons such as knives, guns and even tear gas around with you, even for self-defence. However, personal alarms are allowed.

IN AN EMERGENCY

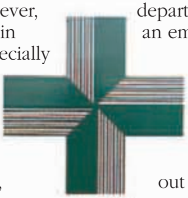
The police, fire and ambulance services are on call 24 hours a day and can be reached by dialling 999. Along the coastal areas, this number will also put you in touch with Britain's voluntary coastguard rescue service, the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. Calls are free from any public or private phone, but they should be made only in real emergencies.

Royal National Lifeboat Institute logo

PHARMACIES

You can buy a wide range of over-the-counter drugs in Britain. **Boots** (www.boots.com) is the best-known chemist, with branches in most towns. Many medicines, however, are available only with a doctor's prescription. If you are likely to need medication, either bring your own or get your doctor to write out the generic (as opposed to the brand) name of the drug. If you are entitled to an NHS prescription, you will be charged a standard rate; if not, you will be charged the full cost of the drug. Do ask for a receipt for any insurance claim.

Some pharmacies are open until midnight; contact your local hospital for a list. You can call the NHS Direct 24-hour helpline (0845 4647) or go to a hospital casualty department any time. In an emergency, dial 999 for an ambulance.



Pharmacy sign

HEALTH INSURANCE

It is sensible to take out travel insurance to cover cancellation or curtailment of your holiday, theft or loss of money and possessions, and the cost of any medical treatment, which may include emergency hospital care, repatriation and specialists' fees. This is particularly important for visitors from outside the European Union. Emergency medical treatment in a British NHS casualty ward is free, but any kind of additional medical care could prove very expensive.

Those with a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) are entitled to free treatment under the NHS. This applies to visitors from EU and European Economic Area (EEA) countries, as well as some Commonwealth countries, such as Australia and New Zealand. Be aware, though, that certain benefits covered by medical insurance will not be included. North American and Canadian health plans or student identity cards *(see p672)* may give you some protection against costs, but do always check the small print.

If you need to see a dentist while staying in Britain, be aware that you will have to pay. The cost varies, depending on your entitlement to NHS treatment and whether you can find an NHS dentist to treat you (many dental practices no longer take on NHS patients). Emergency dental treatment is available in some hospitals, but if you prefer to be seen by a private dentist, try looking in the *Yellow Pages (see p678)* .

DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police, Fire and Ambulance services
Tel *999.*

Accident and Emergency Departments
For your nearest unit, check the phone directory or contact the police.

Emergency Dental Care
Tel *020 7188 7188 (Guy's Hospital, London) or 020 7837 3646 (children only, 24 hours).*

HELPLINES

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel *0845 769 7555.* **www**.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

British Deaf Association
www.signcommunity.org.uk

British Pregnancy Advisory Service
Tel *08457 30 40 30.*
www.bpas.org

Childline
Tel *0800 1111 (24-hour free phoneline for children in need of help).*
www.childline.org.uk

Dial UK
Tel *01302 310123 (helpline for the disabled).*
www.dialuk.org.uk

Disabled Living Foundation
Tel *0845 130 9177.*
www.dlf.org.uk

Frank
Tel *0800 77 66 00 (24-hour substance-abuse helpline).*
www.talktofrank.com

NHS Direct
Tel *0845 4647.*
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Rape Crisis Centre
Regional numbers found at
www.rapecrisis.co.uk

Royal National Institute of Blind People
Tel *08457 66 99 99.*
www.rnib.org.uk

Samaritans
Tel *08457 90 90 90 (24 hours).*
www.samaritans.org

Victim Support
Tel *0845 30 30 900.*
www.victimsupport.org

Banking and Local Currency

The high-street banks usually offer the best rates of currency exchange, though commission fees may vary. However, if you do find yourself having to use one of the many privately owned bureaux de change that are found at nearly every major airport, train station and tourist area, take care to check the commission and minimum charges before completing any transaction.

A branch of Lloyds TSB

BUREAUX DE CHANGE

Private bureaux de change may be more conveniently located and have more flexible opening hours than banks. However, rates of exchange vary and commission charges can be high, so it is always worth shopping around.

Exchange International, **Travelex**, **American Express** and **Chequepoint** all have branches throughout Britain and usually offer good exchange facilities. Marks & Spencer (www.marksandspencer.com) has bureaux de change in more than 110 of its stores across the UK. They charge no commission on foreign-currency travellers' cheques and only 1 per cent on sterling travellers' cheques.

BANKS

Every large town and city in Britain has a branch of at least one of these five high-street banks: Barclays, Lloyds TSB, HSBC, NatWest and Royal Bank of Scotland.

Banking hours vary but the majority are open 9am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday. Most main branches open on Saturday mornings, too. All banks close on public holidays *(see p65)*.

If you run out of funds, it is possible to have money wired from your country to your nearest British bank. Branches of Travelex and American Express will also do this for you. North American visitors can get cash dispatched through **Western Union** to a bank or post office. Remember to take along your passport as proof of identity.

CASH DISPENSERS

Most banks have a cash dispenser, or ATM, from which you can obtain money with a credit card and your personal identification number (PIN). Cash machines can also be found in some supermarkets, post offices, petrol stations, train stations and London Underground stations. Some of the most modern ATMs have on-screen instructions in several languages. Some make a charge for cash withdrawals (typically £1.50 per transaction). American Express cards may be used at all cash-dispensing machines, but there is a 2 per cent handling charge for each transaction.

There have been some incidences of card crime at ATMs; be vigilant and cover the keypad with your hand when entering your PIN.

CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are widely used throughout Britain. Indeed, a credit card is necessary in order to rent a car and for some hotel bookings. However, many small shops, guesthouses, markets and cafés may not accept them, so always check in advance of your purchase. Cards that are accepted are usually displayed on the windows of the establishment. Britain uses the "chip and PIN" system instead of a signature on a credit slip. You will need a four-digit PIN, so ask your bank for one before you leave.

A credit card allows you to obtain cash advances up to your credit limit at any bank and cash dispenser displaying the appropriate card sign. You will be charged the credit card company's interest rate for obtaining cash, and this will appear on your statement with the amount advanced. You will probably also incur a currency-exchange fee.

BRITISH BANKS

These high-street banks have branches in most of Britain's towns and cities. Many will also offer currency-exchange facilities, but proof of identity may be required.

Royal Bank of Scotland logo

National Westminster logo

HSBC logo

Barclays Bank logo

Lloyds TSB logo

American Express
Tel *020 7834 5555.*
www.americanexpress.co.uk

Chequepoint
Tel *020 7225 4600.*
www.chequepoint.com

Exchange International
Tel *020 7630 1107.*

Travelex
www.travelex.co.uk

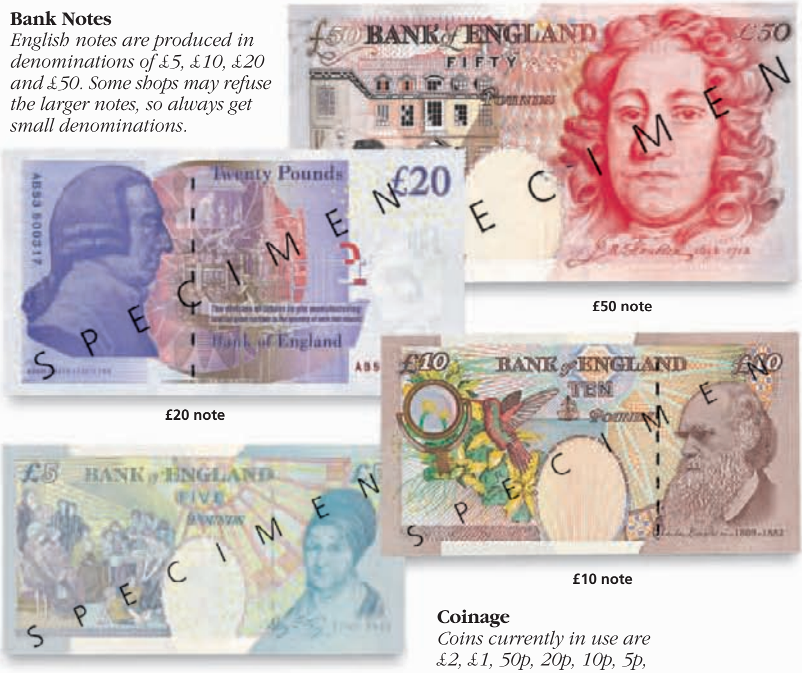
Western Union
Tel *0800 833 833.*
www.westernunion.co.uk

CURRENCY

Britain's currency is the pound sterling (£), which is divided into 100 pence (p). There are no exchange controls in Britain, so you may bring in and take out as much cash as you like. Scotland has its own notes. Although these are legal tender throughout Britain, they are not always accepted in England and Wales. Travellers' cheques are the safest alternative to carrying large amounts of cash. Always keep the receipts from your travellers' cheques separate from the cheques themselves. This simple precaution makes it easier to obtain a refund if your cheques are lost or stolen. Some high-street banks issue travellers' cheques free of commission to their account holders, but the normal rate is about 1 per cent. When changing money, ask for some smaller notes, since these are easier to use.

A Scottish one pound (£1) bank note

Bank Notes
English notes are produced in denominations of £5, £10, £20 and £50. Some shops may refuse the larger notes, so always get small denominations.


£50 note

£20 note

£10 note

£5 note

Coinage
Coins currently in use are £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p, 2p and 1p.

2 pounds (£2)

1 pound (£1)

50 pence (50p)

20 pence (20p)

10 pence (10p)

5 pence (5p)

2 pence (2p)

1 penny (1p)

Communications and Media

Modern BT phone box

With constantly improving telecommunication systems and email, staying in touch and making plans while travelling has never been easier. The telephone system in Britain is efficient and inexpensive. Charges depend on when, where and for how long you talk. The cheapest time to call is between 7pm and 8am Monday to Friday and throughout the weekend. Local calls made on public payphones, however, are charged at a fixed rate per minute.

PUBLIC TELEPHONES

You can use a payphone with coins or a card. All payphones accept 10p, 20p, 50p and £1 pieces; the newer ones also accept £2 coins. The minimum cost of a call is 40p. Phone cards are more convenient than coins and can be bought from newsagents and post offices. If you use a credit card, note that it carries a minimum charge and that your calls will be charged at a higher rate.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are widespread in Britain, and every high street has at least one mobile-phone shop, the most common being **Vodafone**, **O2**, **Carphone Warehouse**, **Orange** and **Phones4U**. The UK network uses the 900 or 1800 GSM system, so visitors from the United States (where the system is 800 or 1900 MHz band) will need to acquire a tri- or quad-band set. Contact your service provider for details. You may need to inform your network operator in advance of your trip, so that the "roaming" facility can be enabled. When abroad, you will be charged for the calls you receive, as well as for the calls you make; in addition, you have to pay a substantial premium for the international leg of the call.

It is easier and cheaper to purchase a SIM card locally and top it up with credit. This will allow you to use the local mobile-phone networks, though you can only do this if your handset is not "locked" to a specific network. Alternatively, you could buy a brand-new phone and top up with a pay-as-you-go card. Make sure the phone you buy can accept international calls. Check that your insurance policy covers you in case your phone gets stolen, and keep your network operator's helpline number handy for emergencies.

ACCESSING THE INTERNET

Most cities and towns now have some form of public access to computers and the Internet, including specially adapted payphones in the street. Many hotels include Internet facilities as part of their service, and free Internet access is often available at libraries, though you may have to book a time slot. Many cafés now offer free WiFi (wireless) Internet access, so you can use your laptop computer.

Internet cafés usually charge for computer use by the minute. Internet access is generally very cheap, but it is most reasonable during off-peak times. However, charges can build up quickly, especially when including the cost of printing.

VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) is a way of communicating telephonically via your computer. Most Internet cafés will have at least one such system installed. In order to use it, you will need a Skype account (free to set up), a set of headphones and a microphone (usually provided by the café). It is free to call other Skype accounts. Calling land lines and mobiles is very cheap, but you need to buy Skype credits using credit/debit cards or PayPal.

Round-the-clock Internet access at the Europe-wide chain easyInternetcafe

DIRECTORY

Carphone Warehouse
www.carphonewarehouse.co.uk

Orange
www.orange.co.uk

O2
www.o2.co.uk

Phones4U
www.phones4u.co.uk

Vodafone
www.vodafone.co.uk

DIRECTORY

The following services exist to help you find or reach a specific phone number. You will be charged more for enquiries if calling from a mobile phone.

BT Directory Enquiries
Tel 118 500 (charge applies).

International Directory Enquiries
Tel 118 505 (charge applies).

International Operator
Tel 155 (freephone).

Operator Assistance
Tel 100.

Overseas Calls
Tel 00 followed by country code: Australia (61), Canada (1), Ireland (353), New Zealand (64), South Africa (27), United States (1).

Yellow Pages
Tel 118 247 (charge applies).
www.yell.com
Provides numbers for shops or services in any area, as well as maps and driving directions.

POSTAL SERVICES

Stamps can be bought at many outlets, including supermarkets and petrol stations. When writing to a British address, always include the postcode, which can be obtained from **Royal Mail**. Within the UK, letters and postcards can be sent either first or second class; second-class mail is cheaper and takes a day or two longer. The price of postage depends on the size and weight of your letter. For more details, visit the Royal Mail website or take your letter/parcel to any post office, where they will weigh it and give you the price of postage.

Pillar box

Large urban post office branches have a *poste restante* service where letters can be collected. Correspondence should be sent to the recipient at *Poste Restante*, followed by the address of the relevant post office branch. To collect your post, you will have to show your passport or other form of identification. Post is kept for one month. London's main post office is in William IV Street, WC2. The American Express office on Haymarket also has a *poste restante* service for customers.

Main post office branches offer all the mail services available. In more isolated areas, there are often small branches in newsagents, grocery stores and general information centres. In many villages, the post office is also the only shop.

Post offices are usually open from 9am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday, and until 12:30pm on Saturday.

Royal Mail
Tel *08457 740 740.*
www.royalmail.com

POST BOXES

Post boxes can be found throughout cities, towns and villages in Britain. They may be either free-standing pillar boxes or wall safes, but they are always painted bright red. Collections are usually made several times a day during weekdays (less often on Saturdays and Sundays). The last collection time of the day is marked on the box.

MAILING ABROAD

Air letters go by Royal Mail's airmail service anywhere in the world; the cost depends on the destination. On average, it takes three days for them to reach cities in Europe, and four to six days for other destinations. Royal Mail also offers an express airmail service called **Airsure**, available from all post office branches. Mail goes on the first available flight to the country of destination.

Parcelforce Worldwide offers courier-style services to most destinations and is comparable in price to **DHL**, **Crossflight**, **Expressair** or **UPS**.

Airsure (Royal Mail)
Tel *08457 740 740.*
www.royalmail.com

Crossflight
Tel *08702 241 122.*
www.crossflight.co.uk

DHL
Tel *08701 100 300.*
www.dhl.co.uk

Expressair
Tel *08450 77 55 33.*
www.expressair.co.uk

Parcelforce Worldwide
Tel *08708 50 11 50.*
www.parcelforce.com

UPS
Tel *08457 877 877.*
www.ups.com

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

British national newspapers fall into two categories: quality papers, such as *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Guardian*; and those heavy on gossip, such as *The Sun* or the *Daily Mirror*. The weekend newspapers, more expensive than dailies, are packed with supplements of all kinds, including sections on the arts, entertainment, travel, listings and reviews. Free newspapers, with an emphasis on news and celebrity gossip, are given away, morning and evening, at main railway stations in major cities such as London and Manchester.

Specialist periodicals on just about every topic are available from newsagents. For a more in-depth analysis of current events, buy *The Economist*, *New Statesman* or *The Spectator*, while *Private Eye* cocks a satirical snook at public figures. A few foreign magazines and newspapers are available in large towns, often at main train stations, but mostly in London. One of the most popular is the *International Herald Tribune*, which is available on the day of issue.

The Daily Telegraph
the guardian
The Sun
FREE DVD
Some of Britain's national newspapers

TELEVISION AND RADIO

The state-run BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) operates eight channels and has a reputation for making some of the world's best television. These channels have no advertising breaks. Its commercial rivals include ITV, Channel 4 and Five. ITV is liked for its soap operas and game shows; Channel 4 caters for trendy and minority tastes (art films, documentaries, offbeat chat shows); and Five relies on US imports and TV movies.

The BBC also has a number of radio stations, ranging from pop music (Radio 1) to the middle-brow Radio 4. There are many local commercial radio stations.

Full TV and radio schedules appear in newspapers and listings magazines, as well as online and in the *Radio Times*, a weekly publication.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Britain is an international gateway for both air and sea traffic, which translates into a variety of options in terms of travel. Visitors enjoy a large selection of air carriers linking Britain to the rest of Europe, North America and Australasia. Coach travel is a cheap, if rather slow, form of transport from Europe, while travelling by train has been transformed thanks to the Channel Tunnel. It takes less than two and a half hours from Paris to London on Eurostar. Travelling within Britain is also easy. There is an extensive network of roads to all parts of the country, and hiring a car can be a convenient way of travelling around. The railway network is efficient and far-reaching, especially around London. Travelling by coach is the cheapest option. The coach network reaches most areas but can be slow. If time is short, air travel is possible if expensive.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

British Airways logo

Eurostar trains at St Pancras International Station, London

TRAVELLING AROUND BRITAIN

Choosing the best form of transport depends on where and when you want to go, although the quickest and most convenient methods are generally also the most expensive. The **Transport Direct** website offers a number of alternative ways of getting to your chosen destination.

Distances between any two points within mainland Britain are relatively small, so air travel usually makes sense only between the extremes, such as London to Edinburgh.

Train travel is the best option if you want to visit Britain's major cities, though fares, especially at peak times, can be expensive. If you plan to do much travelling within Britain, invest in a rail pass *(see p686)*. You can buy one before you arrive in the UK since several schemes cater for overseas visitors. **BritRail** has several options on offer, from a few days' to two weeks' worth of rail travel.

Coaches *(see p688)* cover a wide number of UK destinations and are cheaper than trains, but they take longer and may be less comfortable.

For a touring holiday, hiring a car *(see p685)* is easier than relying on public transport. Car rental can be arranged at major airports, large train stations and city centre outlets. Small local firms often undercut the large operators in price but may not be as reliable or convenient. To get the best deals, book from abroad.

For detailed exploration of smaller areas, such as Britain's national parks, you may prefer more leisurely forms of transport such as bike, narrowboat or horse. Sometimes there are picturesque local options, like the rowing-boat ferry between Southwold and Walberswick on the Blyth Estuary *(see p202)*. Larger car ferries travel to Britain's islands.

Taxis *(see p690)* are available at all main coach and train stations; without a car you will avoid the stress of driving in congested city centres.

GREEN TRAVEL

With congestion charges in London and limited parking throughout the urban areas, driving in British cities is not recommended. Instead, make use of the country's extensive public transport network.

Covering a lot of ground without a car is possible, although this does take careful planning to ensure you catch all of your connections. Most areas are served by trains and/or buses, and services tend to be fairly regular. Travelling around the countryside without private transport, however, can be difficult, because bus services can be infrequent (particularly on Sundays). It may be sensible to hire a car.

Trains in Britain can be overcrowded at peak times, and they are often expensive, although booking tickets in advance can bring the cost down. The GroupSave ticket scheme allows discounted rail travel for groups of three or four, and various other discounts are available with a travel card.

The National Trust *(see p672)* offers some incentives, including discounted entry, to those who use public transport when visiting some of their sites.

The National Cycle Network provides more than 20,000 km (12,430 miles) of cycle paths across Britain. A bike can be taken on most off-peak trains, but you may have to book a spot for it. Check before you travel.

For more information on environmentally friendly travel options, contact **Sustrans**.

Arriving by Sea, Rail and Coach

Irrespective of how you are travelling from Europe, you will have to cross the English Channel or the North Sea. Ferry services operate from a huge number of ports on the European mainland and have good link-ups with international coaches, with services from most European cities to Britain. The Channel Tunnel means there is a non-stop rail link between Europe and Britain. Prices between the ferries and the tunnel services remain competitive, and both options are good green alternatives to flying.

FERRY SERVICES FROM EUROPE

A complex network of car and passenger ferry services links over a dozen British ports to many ports in northern and southern Europe.

Ferries can be convenient and economical for those travelling by car or on foot. Fares vary greatly according to the season, time of travel and duration of stay. Early booking means big savings – a Dover–Calais return crossing can cost as little as £22. The shortest crossings are not always the cheapest, since you often pay a premium for the speed of the journey.

CROSSING TIMES

Crossing times vary from just over an hour on the shortest routes to a full 24 hours on services from Spain and Scandinavia. If you take an overnight sailing, it is often worth paying extra for sleeping quarters to avoid feeling exhausted when you arrive.

Speed Ferries runs fast Seacat (catamaran) services between Dover and Boulogne, in France, taking just under an hour. Catamarans can carry vehicles and lack the dip and sway of a conventional ship, so may be less painful for those who tend to get seasick.

SEAPORT BUREAUCRACY

Visitors from outside the EU should allow plenty of time for immigration control and customs clearance at British seaports *(see p668)*.

CHANNEL TUNNEL

Thanks to the Channel Tunnel, there is access to Britain via **Eurostar** and **Eurotunnel** from the French and Belgian high-speed rail networks. In France and Belgium, trains reach speeds of up to 186 mph (300kmph). The cost is comparable to flying but the train is much more convenient and much less environmentally damaging. Typically, a ticket from London to Paris costs about £99 but can be as low as £59.

Eurotunnel logo

Passengers on buses and cars get on to a freight train run by Eurotunnel that takes 35 minutes to travel between Calais and Folkestone. For those travelling by rail there are about 40 scheduled passenger-only Eurostar services, operated by the French, Belgians and British. They run direct services from Brussels, Paris, Lille and Calais to Ashford, Ebbsfleet and St Pancras in London. There are two passenger tunnels and one service tunnel, both lying 25–45 m (82–147 ft) below the sea bed.

DIRECTORY

FERRIES, RAIL AND COACH TRAVEL

BritRail
www.acprailnet.com

Brittany Ferries
Tel *08709 076 103.*
www.brittanyferries.co.uk

European Rail Travel
Tel *08448 484 064.*
www.raileurope.co.uk

Eurostar
Tel 08705 186 186.
www.eurostar.com

Eurotunnel/Le Shuttle
Tel *08705 35 35 35.*
www.eurotunnel.com

National Express
www.nationalexpress.com
(coaches)

Norfolk Line
www.norfolkline.com *(ferries)*

P&O Ferries
www.poferries.com

Speed Ferries
www.speed.ferries.org

Transport Direct
www.transportdirect.info

GREEN TRAVEL

Sustrans
www.sustrans.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL COACH TRAVEL

Although coach (bus) travel is considerably cheaper than other forms of travel, it is not the most comfortable. If you have a lot of spare time and want to stop off en route, however, it can be convenient. Once you have paid for your ticket, you will not have to pay extra for the ferry or the Channel Tunnel.

Ferry arriving at Dover

Arriving by Air

Britain has about 130 licensed airports, only a handful of which deal with long-haul traffic. The largest one, London's Heathrow, is the world's busiest international airport and one of Europe's main routing points for international air travel. Heathrow is served by most of the world's leading airlines, with direct flights from nearly all the major cities. Other international airports include Gatwick, Stansted, Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle, Birmingham and Edinburgh. Smaller airports, such as London City, Bristol, Norwich and Cardiff, have daily flights to European destinations. Strict anti-terrorist measures are currently in force at all airports.

A British Airways 747 jet at Heathrow Airport

BRITISH AIRPORTS

Most of Britain's largest and best-known airports are run by the British Airports Authority (BAA); the rest are either owned by a local authority or in private hands. BAA airports offer up-to-date facilities, including 24-hour banking, shops, cafés, hotels and restaurants. Security is strict at all British airports, and it is important never to leave your luggage unattended.

For visitors to London, Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted are equally convenient. If you plan to visit northern England, there are now many flights going to Birmingham, Newcastle and Manchester, while for Scotland you can fly to Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Heathrow has five terminals and other airports have two. Before you fly, check with the airport from which terminal your flight leaves.

During severe weather conditions in the winter months, your flight may be diverted to another airport. If this happens, the airline will organize transportation back to your original destination.

British Airways has flights to most of the world's important destinations. Other British international airlines include **Virgin Atlantic**, with routes to the USA and the Far East, and **British Midland**, which flies to Western Europe.

American airlines offering scheduled services to Britain include **Delta**, **US Air** and **American Airlines**. From Canada, the main carrier is **Air Canada**. From Australasia, the national carriers **Qantas** and **Air New Zealand** vie with several Far Eastern rivals.

Britain imposes an airport tax on all departing passengers. This is currently £10 for domestic and EU routes, and £20 for non-EU and long-haul flights. It is included in the price of the ticket.

TRANSPORT FROM THE AIRPORT

Britain's international airports lie some way from the city centres, but transport to and from them is efficient. The most convenient form of door-to-door travel is a taxi, but it is also the most expensive. In addition, taxis can be slow if there is road congestion. This is also a problem with buses or coaches, although they are a lot cheaper.

Heathrow and Newcastle airports are linked to the city centres by the Underground *(see p691)*, which is efficient, quick and cheap. Visitors to London arriving at Heathrow can also take the Heathrow Express, the fast train to Paddington Station

AIRPORT	☎ INFORMATION	DISTANCE TO CITY CENTRE	TAXI FARE TO CITY CENTRE	PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO CITY CENTRE
Heathrow	08700 000 123	23 km (14 miles)	£40–£45	Rail: 15 mins Tube: 45 mins
Gatwick	08700 002 468	45 km (28 miles)	£75	Rail: 30 mins Bus: 70 mins
Stansted	08700 000 303	60 km (37 miles)	£80	Rail: 45 mins Bus: 75 mins
Manchester	0161 489 3000	16 km (10 miles)	£15–£16	Rail: 15 mins Bus: 30 mins
Birmingham	08707 33 55 11	13 km (8 miles)	£12–£15	Bus: 30 mins
Newcastle	08718 821 131	8 km (5 miles)	£10–£12	Metro: 20 mins Bus: 20 mins
Glasgow	08700 400 008	13 km (8 miles)	£12–£15	Bus: 20 mins
Edinburgh	08700 400 007	13 km (8 miles)	£17–£18	Bus: 25 mins

Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport

(www.heathrowexpress.com or 0845 600 1515). Trains run every 15 minutes from 5am until around midnight, taking 15 minutes from Terminals 1, 2 and 3, and 21 minutes from Terminal 5. Terminal 4 requires a change of train and takes a total of 23 minutes. Those arriving at Gatwick can take the Gatwick Express to London Victoria (www.gatwickexpress.com or 08705 30 15 30). Trains run every 15 minutes and take 30 minutes.

Heathrow express
Gatwick Express

Signs for express railway services to London

Stansted and Manchester also have regular express trains that are not too expensive and are a reliable method for travelling into the heart of the city.

National Express coaches *(see p688)* provide direct connections from major airports (London's Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, Luton, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Coventry, East Midlands and Bristol) to many British destinations. They also have a regular service between Gatwick and Heathrow.

CHOOSING A TICKET

Finding the right flight at the right price can be difficult. Promotional fares do come up, and it is always worth checking with the airlines. Cheap deals are often available from package operators and are advertised in newspapers and travel magazines. Even if you enjoy independent travel, it may be worth considering a package, since sometimes car rental or rail travel is included, and this can be cheaper than arranging it yourself once in Britain.

Fares are usually seasonal, the most expensive falling between June and September. The best deals can be had from November to April, excluding Christmas – if you want to travel then, be sure to book well in advance. APEX (Advance Purchase Excursion) fares are often the best value, though they must be booked up to a month ahead and are subject to restrictions. Charter flights offer even cheaper seats but are not usually flexible.

Budget airlines such as **easyJet** and **Ryanair** offer exceptionally cheap flights if booked long enough in advance. Always buy discount fares from a reputable operator, and do not part with any cash until you have seen your ticket and ensured your seat has been confirmed.

Students, the under-26s, senior citizens and frequent travellers may obtain a discount through student travel agencies. Children also travel at cheaper rates.

TRAVELLING WITHIN BRITAIN BY AIR

Internal air travel in Britain only makes sense over long distances, where it can save a great deal of time – for example, London to Scotland, or to one of the many offshore islands. Fares can be expensive, but if you book well ahead, they can be up to three times cheaper than if you just turn up at the airport. The British Airways shuttle flights that operate between London and cities such as Glasgow, Edinburgh and Manchester are very popular with business travellers. At peak times of the day, flights leave every hour, while at other times there is usually a flight every two hours. Even on domestic flights, security is strict. Never leave your bags unattended.

DIRECTORY

AIR TRAVEL

Air Canada
Tel *0871 220 111.*

Air New Zealand
Tel *0800 028 4149.*

American Airlines
Tel *020 7365 0777.*

British Airports Authority
Tel *020 8745 9800.*
www.baa.com

British Airways
Tel *0870 850 9850.*

British Midland
Tel *0870 607 0555.*

Continental Airlines
Tel *0800 776 464.*

Delta Airlines
Tel *0845 600 0950.*

EasyJet
www.easyjet.com

Qantas
Tel *08457 747 767.*

Ryanair
www.ryanair.com

US Airways
Tel *08456 003 300.*
www.usairways.com

Virgin Atlantic
Tel *08705 747 747.*

Travelling Around by Car

The most startling difference for most foreign motorists is that in Britain you drive on the left, with corresponding adjustments at roundabouts and junctions. Distances are measured in miles. Once you adapt, rural Britain is an enjoyable place to drive, though traffic density in towns and at busy holiday times can cause long delays – public holiday weekends near the south coast can be particularly horrendous. An extensive network of toll-free motorways and trunk roads has now cut travelling time to most parts of the country.

The A30 dual carriageway going through Cornwall

WHAT YOU NEED

To drive in Britain you need a current driving licence with an international driving permit, if required. You must also carry proof of ownership or a rental agreement in your vehicle, plus any insurance documents.

ROADS IN BRITAIN

Rush hour can last from 8 to 9:30am and from 5 to 7pm on weekdays in the cities; at these times, traffic can grind to a halt.

A good touring map is vital for driving in the country. The AA or RAC motoring atlases are fairly straightforward to use. For exploration of more rural areas, the Ordnance Survey series is the best. Motorways are marked with an "M" followed by their identifying number. "A" roads, sometimes dual carriageways (that is, with two lanes in each direction), are main routes, while "B" roads are secondary roads. The latter are often less congested and more enjoyable. Rural areas are criss-crossed by a web of tiny lanes.

ROAD SIGNS

Signs are mostly standardized in line with Europe. Directional signs are colour-coded: blue for motorways, green for major routes and white for minor routes. Brown signs indicate places of interest. Advisory or warning signs are usually triangles in red and white, with easy-to-understand pictograms. Watch for electronic notices on motorways that warn of roadworks, accidents or patches of fog.

Level crossings, found at railway lines, often have automatic barriers. If the lights are flashing red, it means a train is coming and you must stop.

The UK Highway Code Manual, available online at the Department of Transport website, is an up-to-date guide to all the current British driving regulations and traffic signs.

RULES OF THE ROAD

Speed limits are 30–40 mph (50–65 km/h) in built-up areas and 70 mph (110 km/h) on motorways or dual carriageways. Look out for speed signs on other roads. It is compulsory to wear seatbelts in Britain. Drink-driving penalties are severe; see the UK Highway Code Manual for legal limits. It is illegal to use a mobile phone while driving.

PARKING

Parking meters operate during working hours (usually 8am–6:30pm Mon–Sat). Be sure to keep a supply of coins for them. Some cities have "park and ride" schemes, where you can take a bus from an out-of-city car park into the centre. Other towns have parking schemes where you buy a card at the tourist office or newsagents, fill in your parking times and display it on your dashboard. Avoid double yellow lines at all times; single lines sometimes mean you can park in the evenings and at weekends, but check carefully. Traffic wardens will not hesitate to ticket, clamp or tow away your car. If in doubt, find a car park. Outside urban

DISTANCE CHART

10 Distance in miles

10 Distance in kilometres

	LONDON	ABERDEEN	BIRMINGHAM	BRISTOL	CARDIFF	DOVER	EDINBURGH	EXETER	LIVERPOOL	MANCHESTER	NEWCASTLE	OXFORD
ABERDEEN	**492** 792											
BIRMINGHAM	**111** 179	**411** 658										
BRISTOL	**114** 182	**490** 784	**88** 101									
CARDIFF	**150** 240	**493** 789	**102** 163	**44** 70								
DOVER	**74** 118	**563** 901	**185** 296	**189** 302	**228** 365							
EDINBURGH	**372** 600	**121** 194	**290** 464	**369** 590	**373** 597	**442** 707						
EXETER	**170** 272	**565** 904	**164** 262	**75** 120	**120** 192	**244** 342	**444** 710					
LIVERPOOL	**198** 317	**792** 492	**90** 144	**161** 258	**165** 264	**270** 432	**214** 342	**237** 380				
MANCHESTER	**184** 294	**333** 533	**81** 130	**162** 258	**173** 277	**257** 411	**213** 341	**238** 381	**34** 54			
NEWCASTLE	**274** 438	**228** 365	**204** 326	**288** 461	**301** 482	**343** 549	**107** 171	**364** 582	**155** 248	**131** 210		
OXFORD	**56** 90	**473** 757	**63** 101	**70** 112	**104** 166	**129** 206	**353** 565	**141** 226	**153** 245	**144** 230	**254** 406	
YORK	**194** 310	**307** 491	**129** 206	**217** 347	**231** 397	**264** 422	**186** 297	**292** 467	**97** 155	**65** 104	**82** 131	**174** 278

areas and popular tourist zones, parking is much easier. Look out for signs with a blue “P”, indicating parking spaces. Never leave any valuables or luggage in your car: thefts are common, especially in cities.

Sign for a car park

PETROL

Large supermarkets often have the best deals; look out for branches of Asda, Tesco or Sainsbury’s with petrol stations. Motorway service areas are generally more expensive. Petrol is sold in three grades: diesel, LRP (lead replacement petrol) and unleaded. Most modern cars in Britain use unleaded petrol, and any vehicle you hire will probably do too. Unleaded and diesel are cheaper than LRP. Most petrol stations in Britain are self-service, but the instructions at pumps are easy to follow.

BREAKDOWN SERVICES

Britain’s major motoring organizations are the **AA** (Automobile Association) and the **RAC** (Royal Automobile Club). They provide a comprehensive 24-hour breakdown service for members, as well as many other motoring services. Both offer reciprocal assistance for members of overseas motoring organizations – before arrival, check with your own group to see if you are covered. You can contact the AA or RAC from the roadside SOS phones found on motorways. **Green Flag** is the other major rescue service in Britain.

Most car-hire agencies have their own cover, and their charges include membership of the AA, the RAC or Green Flag. Be sure to ask the rental company for the service’s emergency number.

If you are not a member of an affiliated organization, you can still call out a rescue service, although it will be expensive. Always follow the advice given on your insurance policy or rental agreement. If you have an accident that involves injury or another vehicle, call the police as soon as possible *(see p675)*.

The Environmental Transport Association gives advice on reducing the impact of carbon emissions, as well as offering a number of ethical breakdown services.

CAR HIRE

Hiring a car in Britain can be expensive. Details of car-hire companies at Britain’s airports are on the VisitBritain website *(see p669)*. One of the most competitive national companies is **Autos Abroad**, but small local firms may undercut even these rates. Other reputable car-hire companies include **Avis**, **Hertz**, **Europcar** and **Budget**. It is illegal to drive without third-party insurance, and it is advisable to take out fully comprehensive insurance. Many companies prefer you to leave a credit card number; if not, you may have to part with a substantial cash deposit. You need your driving licence and a passport when you hire. Most companies will not hire cars to novice drivers, and may have age limits (normally 21–74). Automatic cars are also usually available for hire. If you are touring Britain for three weeks or more, you may find a leasing arrangement cheaper than hiring. Remember to add VAT and insurance costs when you check hire rates.

COATHLAND
GARAGE

A small petrol station in Goathland, North Yorkshire

DIRECTORY

BREAKDOWN

AA
Tel 0870 600 0371.
www.theaa.com

Environmental Transport Association
www.eta.co.uk

Green Flag
Tel 0845 246 1557.
www.greenflag.com

RAC
Tel 0800 82 82 82.
www.rac.co.uk

CAR HIRE

Autos Abroad
Tel 0845 0291 945.
www.autosabroad.com

Avis
Tel 0870 010 0287.
www.avis.co.uk

Budget
Tel 0844 581 9998.
www.budget.co.uk

Europcar
Tel 0870 607 5000.
www.europcar.co.uk

Hertz
Tel 08708 44 88 44.
www.hertz.co.uk

National Car Rentals
Tel 08705 365 365.
www.nationalcar.co.uk

GENERAL INFORMATION

AA Disabled Line
Tel 0800 262 050.

AA Road Watch
Tel 09003 401 100.

Department of Transport
www.dft.gov.uk

Weathercall
Tel 08706 00 42 42.
www.weathercall.co.uk

HITCHHIKING

It is not advisable to hitchhike in Britain, and there is a risk in hitchhiking alone, especially for a woman. If you must, stand near a busy exit road junction. In rural or walking areas like the Lake District, tired hikers may well be offered a lift. It is illegal to hitch on motorways or their approach roads.

Lift-sharing is now a common practice. The small-ads magazine *Loot* (sold in London, Manchester and Bristol, and also available online) has a large section for lift-seekers.

Travelling Around by Rail

Britain has a privatized rail network that covers the whole of the country, serving more than 2,500 stations. Divided into regional sections, the system is generally efficient and reliable. Parts of the network are occasionally closed for repairs, mostly at weekends, so check with your local station or online before travelling. Journeys across the country may involve a number of changes, since most lines radiate from London, which has seven major terminals. There is also a rail link with continental Europe on Eurostar, from King's Cross St Pancras station in London and Ebbsfleet and Ashford in Kent *(see p680)*.

The concourse at Liverpool Street Station, London

TICKETS

Large travel agents and all railway stations sell train tickets. First-class tickets cost about one-third more than standard fares, and buying a return fare is generally cheaper than buying two singles.

Allow plenty of time to buy your ticket, and always ask about any special offers or reduced fares. There are four types of discounted fares for adults. Apex tickets are available in limited numbers on some long-distance routes, but they have to be booked at least one week in advance. SuperApex fares, also available in limited numbers on a few mainline services, have to be purchased 14 days in advance. Savers can be used at weekends and on most weekday trains outside rush hours, while Supersavers cannot be used on Fridays or on any peak-hour services to, from or through London.

Inspectors can levy on-the-spot fines if you do not have a valid ticket, so it is wise to buy a ticket before boarding the train. Ticket offices in rural areas may close at weekends, but small branch lines have a conductor on board who sells tickets. Many stations have automatic ticket machines.

RAIL PASSES

If you plan to do much train travelling around Britain, buy a rail pass. This can be purchased from many agents abroad, such as **Rail Europe** or **Cie Tours International**. National Rail's All Line Rail Rover gives adults unlimited travel throughout England, Scotland and Wales for seven or 14 days. A Family Rail Card can be used for up to four adults and four children, while a Young Person's Rail Card allows 16- to 25-year-olds or full-time students attending a UK educational establishment to benefit from a series of discounts. The Senior Rail Card entitles those over the age of 60 to a discount of one-third on most fares. There are special passes for London transport, too, and a pass that covers London, Oxford, Canterbury and Brighton. Children aged five to 15 pay half fare; those under the age of five travel free. Disabled travellers qualify for many discounts.

Keep a passport-sized photograph handy for buying passes. If you have a pass, make sure you always show it when you buy a ticket.

GENERAL TIPS

Britain's fastest and most comfortable trains are those on the mainline routes. These are very popular services and get booked up quickly. It is always advisable to reserve your seat in advance, especially if you want to travel at peak times, such as Friday evenings. Mainline trains have dining cars and air-conditioning, and they are fast – travelling to Edinburgh from London, for example, takes just over four hours.

Porters are rare on British stations, although trolleys are often available for passengers to help themselves. If you are disabled and need help, call the Mobility Helpline to book assistance at least 24 hours

Mainline train at platform

Reconditioned steam trains on the tracks in North Yorkshire

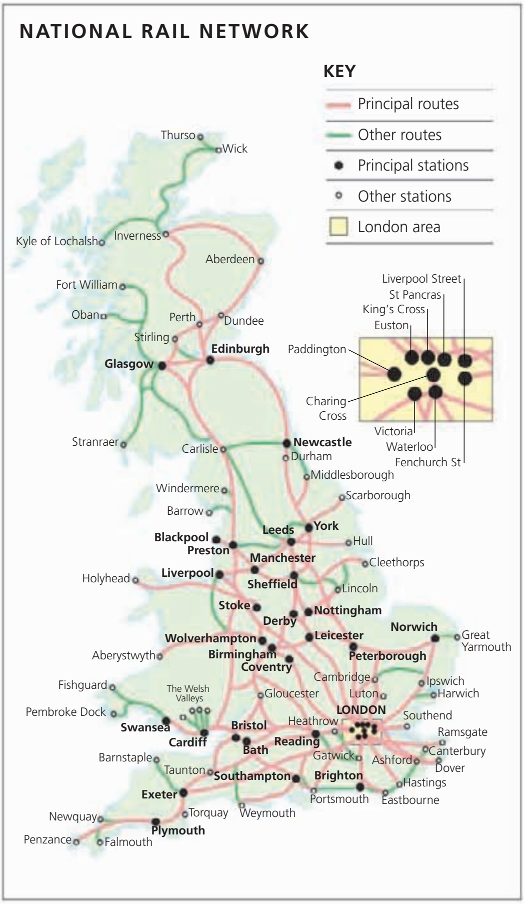
ahead of your journey. A yellow line above a train window indicates a first-class compartment. Note that even if the train is full, you cannot sit in the first-class area without paying the full fare.

Trains sometimes split en route, each section proceeding to different destinations, so always check which section you should be on. Trains stop for only a minute at each station, so gather your belongings in advance and be ready to get on and off.

Some stations are a little way from town centres, but they are usually well signposted and mostly on a bus route. Trains on Sundays and public holidays can be slower and less frequent than normal.

SCENIC TRAIN RIDES

After motor transport made many rural railways redundant in the mid-20th century, some picturesque sections of track, as well as many old steam engines, were rescued and restored to working order by enthusiasts. These services are often privately run; the local tourist office, railway station ticket office or travel agents will provide you with more information. This is one of the best ways to enjoy Britain's spectacular scenery. Most of the lines are short – around 20 miles (32 km) – but cover some of the prettiest parts of the country. Lines include the Ffestiniog Railway *(see pp452–3)* in North Wales; the North York Moors Railway *(see p394)*; the Strathspey Steam Railway in the Cairngorm Mountains of the Scottish Highlands *(see p544)* and the La'l Ratty Railway in Cumbria *(see p364)*.



NATIONAL RAIL NETWORK

KEY
Principal routes
Other routes
Principal stations
Other stations
London area
Thurso
Wick
Kyle of Lochalsh
Inverness
Aberdeen
Fort William
Oban
Perth
Dundee
Stirling
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Stranraer
Carlisle
Newcastle
Durham
Middlesborough
Windermere
Scarborough
Barrow
Leeds
York
Blackpool
Preston
Hull
Manchester
Cleethorps
Holyhead
Liverpool
Sheffield
Lincoln
Stoke
Derby
Nottingham
Norwich
Wolverhampton
Leicester
Great Yarmouth
Aberystwyth
Birmingham
Peterborough
Coventry
Cambridge
Fishguard
The Welsh Valleys
Gloucester
Luton
Ipswich
Harwich
Pembroke Dock
LONDON
Southend
Swansea
Bristol
Heathrow
Cardiff
Reading
Ramsgate
Bath
Gatwick
Ashford
Canterbury
Barnstaple
Dover
Taunton
Southampton
Brighton
Hastings
Exeter
Portsmouth
Eastbourne
Torquay
Weymouth
Newquay
Plymouth
Penzance
Falmouth
Liverpool Street
St Pancras
King's Cross
Euston
Paddington
Charing Cross
Victoria
Waterloo
Fenchurch St

DIRECTORY

UK RAIL NUMBERS

Mobility Helpline
Tel *08457 44 33 66.*

Great North Eastern Railways
Tel *08457 225 225 (bookings).*

Great Western Trains
Tel *08457 000 125 (bookings).*

Lost Property
Tel *020 7387 8699 (Euston) or contact the relevant train company.*

Midland Mainline
Tel *08457 22 11 25 (bookings).*

National Rail Enquiries Timetables
Tel *08457 48 49 50.*
www.nationalrail.co.uk

Rail Europe
Tel *08448 484 064 (London).*
www.raileurope.co.uk

Virgin Trains
Tel *08457 222 333 (bookings).*

OVERSEAS RAIL NUMBERS

CIE Tours International
Tel *(201) 292 3438 or (212) 319 0561 (United States); (800) 243 8687 (Canada).*

Rail Europe
Tel *(914) 682 2999 (United States); (800) 848 7245 (Canada).*

Travelling around by Coach

In Britain, the word “coach” refers to a long-distance express bus and one used for sightseeing excursions. What the British refer to as “buses” covers those vehicles that operate on regular routes with scheduled stops around or between villages, towns and cities. Many coach services duplicate rail routes but are generally cheaper. Journey times, however, are longer and much less predictable on crowded roads. Modern coaches are comfortable, sometimes with refreshments and toilets on board. Some city-to-city routes, especially at weekends, are so popular that it is a good idea to buy a reserved journey ticket, which guarantees you a seat. For ideas on visits to make, consult the VisitBritain website.

A coach tour on the Royal Mile, Edinburgh

NATIONAL COACH NETWORK

There are many regional coach companies, but the largest British coach operator is **National Express**, with a nationwide network of more than 1,200 destinations *(see pp16–19)*. Always book ahead for the more popular routes. The company offers a number of discounts, such as their £5 Funfares (50p booking fee), which are available online, to over 50 destinations. **Megabus** offers tickets for destinations all over Britain from as little as £1 (50p booking fee). As you would expect, you will need to book early, and the less popular destinations and travel times have the best deals.

The **Oxford Tube** and **Oxford Espress** run frequent, wheelchair-friendly services between Oxford and London, while **Scottish Citylink** is a major operator running regular services between London, the north and Scotland. Some services run from Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports. Allow plenty of time to buy your ticket before boarding.

Discounts are available for full-time students and anyone under 25. The over-50s can also qualify for a discount coach card, saving up to 30 per cent on many fares.

COACH TOURS

A range of coach tours, covering all interests, age groups and destinations, is available. Some include a tour guide. They may last anything from a couple of hours to two weeks or more, touring coast or countryside and visiting places of interest. Some are highly structured, organizing every break en route; others leave you to sightsee or shop at your own pace. You can opt for a prearranged route, or commission your own itinerary for a group. Visit the **Enjoy England** website for inspiration.

A National Express coach

Any large town will have a selection of coach companies. Check the local Yellow Pages *(see p678)* or ask at your hotel or local tourist office. You can also book coach trips direct from overseas through a specialist travel agent.

Seaside resorts and tourist sites are destinations for many day trips, especially in high season. In some of the more popular rural areas, such as the Lake District, special small coaches operate for ease of movement. You can book these in advance, or just turn up before the coach leaves, although the tour is likely to be fully booked, especially in high season. The local tourist information point or travel agent will be able to tell you where these trips leave from, the cost and may even sell you tickets. It is customary to tip the guide after your tour.

REGIONAL BUSES

Regional bus services are run by a number of companies, some private and some operated by local authorities. Services to remote areas tend to be sporadic and expensive, with some buses running just once a week and many isolated villages having no service at all. Only a few rural buses are equipped for wheelchairs.

As a rule, the further you get from a city, the fewer the buses and the more expensive the fare. On the plus side, local buses can be a pleasant and often sociable way of travelling around Britain's lovely countryside.

Most buses run with just one operator – the driver. All drivers prefer you to have the correct fare, so always keep a selection of coins handy. Some routes do not operate on Sundays and public holidays; those that do are much reduced. Always check your routes, schedules and fares at the local tourist office or bus station before you depart on a bus to avoid being stranded somewhere with no return transport.

DIRECTORY

British Travel Associates
Tel *800 327 6097*
(in North America).

Enjoy England
www.enjoyengland.com

VisitBritain
www.visitbritain.com

COACH TRAVEL

Megabus
Tel *08705 50 50 50.*
www.megabus.com

National Express
Tel *08717 81 81 81.*
www.nationalexpress.com

Oxford Espress
Tel *01865 785400.*
www.oxfordbus.co.uk

Oxford Tube
Tel *01865 772250.*
www.stagecoachbus.com/oxfordshire

Scottish Citylink
Tel *08705 50 50 50.*
www.citylink.co.uk

Victoria Coach Station
Tel *020 7730 3466.*
www.tfl.gov.uk/vcs

FERRY & WATERWAY TRAVEL

British Waterways
Tel *01923 201120*
(head office).
www.britishwaterways.co.uk

Caledonian MacBrayne
Tel *01475 650100.*
www.calmac.co.uk

Waterscape
www.waterscape.com

Travelling Britain's Coasts and Waterways

Britain has thousands of miles of inland waterways and hundreds of islands scattered along its beautiful coastline. Cruising along a canal in the Midlands countryside or travelling on one of the small local ferries to a remote Scottish island are both wonderful experiences. Canal boats can be hired, and scores of ferries run between Britain's offshore islands. For information on Britain's canals, rivers and lakes and to book accommodation, a boat or a hotel boat, visit the Waterscape website.

A barge on the Welsh Backs, Bristol

CANALS

As industrial production grew in the 18th century, it became vital to find a cheap and effective way of transporting heavy loads. Canals fulfilled this need, and a huge network was built, linking most industrial areas in the north and sea ports.

The arrival of the railways and their immediate success for freight made most canals redundant, but there are still some 3,200 km (2,000 miles) left, most in the old industrial heartland of the Midlands.

Today these canals lure travellers who are content to cruise on old-fashioned, slow narrowboats, taking their time to enjoy the views and the canalside inns, originally built to satisfy the bargees' thirsts and to supply stabling for the barge horses. These canal holidays can be very relaxing if you have the time.

If you wish to hire a narrowboat, you can book with a specialist travel firm or contact **British Waterways**.

LOCAL FERRIES

Britain's local ferries can offer anything from a ten-minute river journey to a seven-hour sea cruise.

Many of Scotland's ferries are operated by **Caledonian MacBrayne**. They sail to lots of different destinations, such as the Isle of Skye to the Kyle of Lochalsh, or the five-hour journey from Oban to Lochboisdale in the Western Isles. They offer a variety of different ticket types, from unlimited rover tickets for a specific period of time, to island-hop passes or all-inclusive coach tour and ferry tickets. Not all the island ferries take cars.

River ferries make an interesting alternative to the more usual forms of transport. The ferry across the Mersey, between the cities of Liverpool and Birkenhead, is still used by many commuters. London's river trips, such as the one that runs from Westminster to Tower Bridge, offer a different perspective on the city and make a change from tubes, buses and cars. Local tourist information centres can give you information about ferries in their area.

A car ferry travelling from Oban to Lochboisdale

Travelling within Cities

Urban public transport in Britain is efficient and can be fun – children love London's double-decker buses. Fares are good value, especially compared to the expense of parking a car. Most of the larger cities have good bus services. London, Newcastle and Glasgow also have an underground system, while Blackpool, Manchester and Nottingham have trams. Taxis are available at every train station and at ranks near hotels and city centres. The best way to see many cities is on foot, but whatever transport you opt for, try to avoid the rush hours, from 8am to 9:30am and 5pm to 6:30pm.

Double-decker buses on the Strand, in London

LOCAL BUSES

Buses come in all shapes and sizes, with automatic doors and comfortable interiors. They include driver-operated double-deckers, the single-decker "bendy" bus and even smaller single-deckers that are able to weave in and out of traffic more easily. The old "big red bus" with a conductor still exists in London, but only as Heritage route numbers 9 and 15 (through the West End and the City respectively).

On most buses you pay the driver as you enter. They will not always accept notes, so keep a few pound coins handy. Credit cards and cheques are not accepted. The fare depends on the distance you travel. If you are exploring a city by bus, a daily pass is a good idea. Many of the larger cities have daily or weekly passes that can be used on all public transport in that city; these can often be bought from newsagents. Check with the tourist office for schedules and fares.

Night services are available only in major cities, from about 11pm until early morning. Day passes are valid on these until 4:30am. In London, night buses are prefixed with the letter "N", and most of them pass through Trafalgar Square. Be on your guard when travelling alone late at night, when there may be few other passengers on board.

At some stops, called request stops, the driver will not halt unless you signal that you want to get on or off. If you want to board, raise your arm as the bus approaches; if you want to get off, ring the bell once before your stop. Destinations are shown on the front of buses. If you are not sure which stop you need, ask the driver or conductor to alert you and stay on the lower deck. Always keep your ticket until the end of the journey in case an inspector gets on board. They can impose an on-the-spot fine if you are without a valid ticket.

Cities have bus lanes, intended to bypass car traffic jams during the rush hours. These can be effective, but your journey could still take a long time. Schedules are hard to keep to, so regard timetables as advisory.

DRIVING IN CITIES

Driving in city centres is increasingly discouraged. In 2003 London introduced a congestion charge – if you drive or park within the congestion zone from Monday to Friday (7am to 6:30pm), you will be charged an £8 fee to pay before 10pm that day at a newsagent, petrol station or post office. Not paying the charge will lead to a large fine. See **Transport for London**'s website for more information. Other cities are considering similar steps to keep drivers out of the centres. Parking in city centres is also strictly controlled to prevent congestion *(see p684)*.

TAXIS

In large towns, taxis can be found at taxi ranks and train stations. Some operate by radio, so you have to phone. The local Yellow Pages *(see p678)*, pubs, restaurants and hotels will all have a list of taxi numbers. Prices are usually regulated. Always ask the price before you start your journey if there is no taxi meter. If you are not sure of the correct fare, ask the local tourist information point.

The famous London black cabs are almost as much of an institution as the big red buses. These are the safest cabs to use in London since all the drivers are licensed and have undergone strict tests. All licensed cabs must display a "For hire" sign, which is lit up whenever they are free. The newer cab designs are equipped to carry wheelchairs. If a cab stops for you in London, it must by law take you anywhere within a radius of 6 miles (10 km) so long as it is within the Metropolitan Police District. This includes most of London and Heathrow Airport. All licensed cabs have meters that start ticking

One of London's black cabs

as soon as the driver accepts your custom. The fare will increase minute by minute or for each 311 m (1,020 ft) travelled. Most drivers expect a tip of between 10 and 15 per cent of the fare. If you have a complaint, note the serial number found in the back of the cab.

Do not use unlicensed minicabs – they may be mechanically unsound or even uninsured. Never accept an unbooked minicab ride in the street.

GUIDED BUS TOURS

Most major tourist cities offer sightseeing bus tours. Weather permitting, a good way to see the cities is from a traditional open-topped double-decker bus. Private tours can be arranged with many companies. Contact the local tourist information centre for more details.

TRAMS

Trams are making a comeback throughout Britain in clean, energy-efficient and more modern guises. One of the best tram schemes in Britain is Manchester's Metrolink. The oldest tramway is in Blackpool, which opened in 1885.

A tram along Blackpool's famous promenade

LONDON UNDERGROUND

The Underground network in London, known as the Tube, has more than 270 stations, each of which is marked with the London Underground logo. The only other cities with an underground system are Newcastle and Glasgow. Newcastle's system is limited to the city centre, while Glasgow's skirts around the centre. Both are clean and efficient, running the same hours as London's.

BAKER STREET

A London Underground sign outside a station

London tube trains run every day, except Christmas Day, from about 5:30am until just after midnight. Fewer trains run on Sundays and bank holidays. Note that the tube can get very crowded during rush hour.

An Oystercard

The 11 tube lines are colour-coded and maps called Journey Planners are posted at every tube station, while maps of the central section are displayed in each train.

Most tube journeys between central destinations in London can be completed with only one or two changes of line. Smoking is not permitted on the Underground.

Tickets are purchased at the station, but many travellers use an Oystercard, an electronic card that can be topped up for use on buses, trains and the tube. Using an Oystercard is, by far, the cheapest way of travelling on London Transport's tubes and buses. For information on how to get one, see the Transport for London website. Oystercards can be purchased from abroad. There are similar electronic card schemes in other major British cities, such as Oxford.

CYCLING

Cycling is one of the greenest ways of getting around town. Even modest towns have somewhere you can hire bikes. Cyclists may not use motorways or their approach roads, nor can they ride on pavements, footpaths or pedestrianized zones. Many city roads have cycle lanes and their own traffic lights. You can take a bike on most trains; see the **National Rail** website for more information. Never leave your bike unlocked, and always wear a helmet.

Cycling under the Bridge of Sighs, Oxford

WALKING IN CITIES

Once you get used to traffic on the left, Britain's cities can be safely and enjoyably explored on foot. Instructions written on the road will tell you from which direction you can expect the traffic to come.

There are two types of pedestrian crossing: striped zebra crossings and push-button crossings at traffic lights. At a zebra crossing, traffic should stop for you, but at push-button crossings, cars will not stop until the lights change in your favour. More and more cities and towns are creating traffic-free zones in the city centre for pedestrians.

DIRECTORY

National Rail
Tel *08457 48 49 50 (enquiries).*
www.nationalrail.co.uk

Transport for London
Tel *020 7222 1234 (head office).*
www.tfl.com

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